

# THE TONGUE OF THE DESERT

*Jean Jacques Hess' Studies on Language, Customs,  
and Beliefs of the Bedouins of Central Arabia*

## EXHIBITION

1st September – 6th October 2023

Room: RAA E, RAA F 01

### Vernissage

1st September 2023

17:00 – 18:00 with Apéro

Tour of exhibition and Library

2nd September 2023

13:30

## WORKSHOP

1st September 2023

17:00 – 18:00: Apéro

18:00 – 20:00: Keynote Lecture

Room: RAA G 01 Aula

2nd September 2023

10:00 – 18:00

Room: RAA E 29



University of Zurich, the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies,  
Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich

Curators: Saeedeh Setayesh, Dr Johannes Thomann

Organization: Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies,  
UB Asian and Oriental Studies

# THE TONGUE OF THE DESERT

*Jean Jacques Hess' Studies on Language, Customs,  
and Beliefs of the Bedouins of Central Arabia*

Jean Jacques Hess (1866–1949) was the first professor of Egyptology at the University of Fribourg and the first professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Zurich. This workshop and exhibition explore J.J. Hess' diverse interests in languages like Demotic and material cultures.

**Workshop** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

**Exhibition** 1<sup>st</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Organized by Johannes Thomann, Saeedeh Setayesh, Institute and Library of Asian and Oriental Studies.

The workshop and exhibition are made possible with the support of Schweizerische Asiengesellschaft.

Here is the program of the two days workshop:

1<sup>st</sup> September                      RAA-G-01 (AOI)                      at 18:00

## Opening and Keynote Lecture

Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. Rebecca Sauer, UZH

Introduction to the Workshop

Saeedeh Setayesh, UZH

*Jean Jacques Hess and his Bedouin Dictionary*

Prof. Dr. Marcel Kurpershoeck, NYU Abu Dhabi

2<sup>nd</sup> September                      RAA-E-27 (AOI)

09:00

Welcome

09:10

*The Public and Private Life of Jean Jacques Hess*

Johannes Thomann, UZH

09:50

*The Tongue of Ancient Egypt: Jean Jacques Hess' Demotic Studies*

Fabian Wespi, Heidelberg  
University

10:30

Coffee break

11:00

*Faces of the Desert: Jean Jacques Hess' Visual Observation*

Saeedeh Setayesh, UZH

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11:40	<i>Jean Jacques Hess and Rudolf Tschudi: Documents of an Academic Friendship</i>	Renate Würsch, UZH
12:20	Lunchbreak	
13:30	Guided tour in the library	Tobias Heinzelmann, UZH
13:50	<i>Sophie Hess-von Wyss: Artist – Mother – Ghost Writer</i>	Setayesh - Thomann
14:30	<i>Ali Bahgat and Max van Berchem: A Seedling of Arabic Archaeology in the Shade of Enduring Friendship</i>	Kotoz Ahmed, Ku Leuven
15:10	Coffee break	
15:40	<i>The Afterlife of Jean Jacques Hess</i>	Setayesh - Thomann
16:20	<i>The Estate of Jean Jacques Hess</i>	Setayesh - Thomann
17:00	Final discussion	

The workshop and exhibition take place at  
*Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies (AOI)*  
*Rämistrasse 59*  
*8001 Zurich*