Note on Dates, Transliteration and Names

Except where noted otherwise, dates are given in the Common Era (CE) form (AD, or Anno Domini, in most older publications). BCE is used to mark Before Common Era (BC, Before Christ).

Where the Islamic lunar *hijrī* calendar is used, it is marked AH (Anno Hegirae). The Islamic lunar calendar begins with year 1 in mid-July 622 CE and each year is ten or eleven days shorter than the solar year.

Other than primary sources cited in the Bibliography, Arabic personal names and book titles are transliterated without the diacritical marks used by specialists. Only the markers for the letters *'ayn* and *hamza* have been retained (an opening and closing single quotation mark, respectively). Both are forms of glottal stop (arguably in the case of *'ayn*). Other Arabic words and phrases are italicised and transliterated according to a modified version of the scheme used in Brill's *Encyclopaedia of Islam: THREE*.

Only the most widely recognised name for each person is used after the first mention of them, where a fuller set of names is sometimes given.

In the Arabic sources, everyone is known by their own name (their *ism*) and those of their forefathers (their *nasab*). Hence, the famous Umayyad caliph 'Abd al-Malik is often known as 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan – that is, 'Abd al-Malik the son of Marwan (*ibn*, abbreviated to b., being the word for son; *bint*, abbreviated to bt., the word for daughter). Sometimes an individual became best known by a patronym. For example, an early biographer of the Prophet, Muhammad b. Ishaq, is more usually known simply as Ibn Ishaq – 'Son of Ishaq', since this distinguishes him more effectively than his *ism*, Muhammad.

People had at least two other names: a *kunya*, or teknonym, usually derived from the name of their eldest child, and a *nisba*, relating to their tribe or place of origin. 'Abd al-Malik's *kunya* was Abu Sa'id – the father of Sa'id. One of 'Abd al-Malik's *nisba*s was al-Umawi, 'the Umayyad', after his great great-grandfather, Umayya b. 'Abd Shams. Someone could have more than one *kunya* and more than one *nisba*.