

This collection of twenty-nine essays, ranging from ancient to modern history and including Arabic-Islamic prosopography, covers all aspects of prosopography as currently practised. The book provides an introduction for newcomers who have picked up hints that they should be looking at prosopography, but have little idea of what it is and how it operates. For more experienced practitioners it presents a range of different approaches and new applications of the prosopographical method.

The introductory material aims at being helpful to both audiences by operating at two different levels. A primary level gives a broad introduction to prosopography as a whole and a discussion of how it relates to different areas of history and allied disciplines. For the complete, or relative, beginner, the Short Manual to the Art of Prosopography is the essential starting point. A secondary level provides more advanced discussion of certain aspects, such as a survey of the evolution of 'prosopography' as both word and method, the central question of identity, the biographical register and the question of names. The latter part of the book (Part II) offers a number of case studies as concrete illustrations of aspects of the method, such as defining the population to be studied and establishing the criteria on which a study will be based, or different analytical approaches, such as Social Network Analysis. A substantial Select Bibliography is also included.