‘ADAYY, WADI [wāḍī ‘adāyy; وادي عدي] The watercourse, normally dry, which empties the Sayh al-Hatat basin into the sea at al-Qurm. The wadi originates in a sinuous canyon several kilometers long from its beginning at the northern end of Sayh al-Hatat to a point just west of Ruwi. From there the wadi turns west and proceeds in an increasingly leisurely fashion to the sea. The canyon between Ruwi and Sayh al-Hatat is of the most interest for its collection of rock art scattered along the length. Nearly all is pecked art with depictions of battles and hunting scenes. [Costa, p. 116; Pers.]

‘AJAM ['ajam; عجم] The name of a quarter of Muscat located between the Takiyah and Safafir quarters and previously inhabited chiefly by Persians. Also the name of a quarter in Matrah inland from Tuyan, inhabited by Baluch and Persians. In the 1980s, most of the Matrah quarter’s inhabitants were transferred by the government to “social housing” in al-Khawd. [Lorimer, Vol. II, pp. 1183 and 1199; Pers.]

AL BU SA’ID [āl bū saʔid; آل بور سعيد] A quarter of Muscat Intramuros, stretching from the old Customs House to Fort al-Mirani along the shore and inland to al-Bab al-Kabir. Bayt al-‘Alam, the sultan’s palace, and the houses of the Al Bu Sa’id family were located in this area. Among the houses were Bayt Gharayzah, Bayt Faransa, Bayt ‘Abbas, Bayt al-Wakil (also known as Bayt Shihab), and Bayt Ahmad b. Ibrahim (for more information, see “Houses” under “MUSCAT” entry). It also contained Masjid al-Wakil, said to be the oldest mosque in Muscat at the time of its post-1970 destruction (subsequently rebuilt), and Masjid al-Khawr, the mosque of the ruling family and also rebuilt in the 1970s. Masjid al-Wakil takes its name either from Bayt al-Wakil (after the popular title of Sayyid Shihab b. Faysal, uncle of Sultan Sa’id b. Taymur [r. 1932–1970] who served as the sultan’s representative or deputy [wakil] in Muscat), or from a much
earlier deputy of an Al Bu Sa‘id ruler in Muscat. Masjid al-Khawr takes its name from its proximity to the khawr (an inlet in Muscat harbor). Another mosque, similarly rebuilt, is Masjid al-Aghbari between Bayt Faransa and al-Bab al-Kabir; named after an ‘alim (religious scholar) or qadi (religious judge) from the al-Aghbari family of Wadi al-Tayyin. A slave market also operated in the quarter near the khawr in the early 19th century. [Lorimer, vol. II, p. 1182; Keppel, p. 21; Pers.]

**ARBAQ** [arbaq; أربا] A small village formerly located on the shore of Matrah Bay just northwest of Matrah and inhabited by sailors and small merchants. A small fort with two round towers, similar to Matrah Fort, protected the western side of the anchorage (figs. 41 and 175). Both the village and the fort were demolished in 1970 during the construction of the new port of Mina‘ Qabus (see MATRAH). The village appeared to be deserted when an engineering survey was made in 1960 to determine the feasibility of construction of a small port on the site. [Lorimer, vol. II, p. 1192; Costa, p. 112; FO/371/156807; Pers.]

**‘ARSAH** [‘arṣah; عرصة] A small neighborhood of Matrah just outside al-Bab al-Kabir. Traditionally ‘Arsah (= auction place) was the site where local agricultural produce was brought in from the countryside and auctioned to local fruit and vegetable retailers. [Pers.]

**‘ARYANAH** see **‘IRYANAH**

**‘AWR, WADI AL** [al-'awr; وادي العور] A quarter of Muscat Intramuros running from Fort al-Mirani to Bab al-Matha‘ib, west of the Al Bu Sa‘id quarter and next to the western town wall. There are no distinctive houses in this area, possibly because it is low, has a high water table, and is susceptible to flooding. According to Lorimer, most of the inhabitants were Baluchis. Tradition holds that a colony of blind people lived in this quarter in the past (‘awr = blind). [Lorimer, vol. II, p. 1183; Pers.]

**‘AYINT** [‘ayint; عينت] A small plain in an isolated cove along the coast between Matrah bay and Sayh al-Malih (Mina‘ al-Fahl). It was used as a summer resort by the Lawatiyah community and was the site of a farm owned by Sultan b. Muhammad al-Fadl of the