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EDITORIAL

Before publishing this issue, *Adumatu* announced that next October it would hold its third forum, which will cover a theme deemed always of vital interest to nations across the ages. The title of the forum will be “Water through the Ages in the Arab World in Light of Archeological Excavations”. *Adumatu* Editorial Board hopes for wide participation from colleagues and fellow researchers and specialists in the field of “water”. At the advice of some members of the Advisory Board, Amman, Jordan, has been chosen to be the venue of the upcoming *Adumatu* forum. This choice falls well within the role of the journal in reaching out to neighboring Arab countries, gaining wider communal participation, and disseminating archeological knowledge across the Arab World.

When identifying the sessions of the forum, consideration has been taken to particularly focus in on the role of water in the founding and growth of human groups and communities, and the role of water bodies and resources (lakes, rivers, valleys) in human survival and in facilitating peoples’ travels and immigration to new places. And human settlements in various geographical areas have led people to contrive and devise various methods in search for water detection, storage, and transportation.

I had the honor of attending “The First Congress on Saudi Antiquities”, which was organized by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage in Riyadh, during the period from 7-9 November, 2017 (18-20 Safar, 1439 AH). The Congress was patronized by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The Congress was attended by dignitaries, eminent scholars

and researchers from thirty six countries; some of them have been undertaking archeological field work in the Kingdom for several years.

In the meeting, research papers on Saudi antiquities were presented through nine themes, hence providing a much-needed wealth of knowledge for scholars and students on Saudi archaeology.

During the Congress, Abdul Rahman T. Al-Ansary Award for deep dedication towards the Antiquities of Saudi Arabia was presented to Saudi, Arab and European pioneers. The award was approved by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, in recognition of Professor Al-Ansary's work as a pioneering Saudi archaeologist in the fields of archaeological research and excavations, in addition to his academic and scholarly efforts in the field of archaeology.

The participants in the Congress have had the chance to attend the presentation of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz's of his *The Possible Imagination*, the book documenting his career biography in the field of antiquities and culture in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Particularly relevant to his work is Historical Diriyah, Al-Ula, the Al-Turath Foundation, and finally his becoming the President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage since the year 2000. In his speech, His Royal Highness noted with appreciation the contributions of the Saudi pioneers: Professor Abdulrahman T. Al-Ansary, Professor Ali bin Ibrahim Al-Ghabban, and Professor Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid. In his conclusion, His Royal Highness notes that "The people of this land are capable of building a bright future on this land that has always been at the cross roads of civilizations".

We have been delighted by the issuance of the two Royal Orders establishing the Royal Commission for Al-Ula Governorate, and the Commission for the Development of Diriyah Gate under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. These Orders reflect the keen interest our wise leadership takes in these exceptional historical and heritage sites. This is particularly significant in view of the cultural and historical values of both Al-Ula and Diriyah in the Kingdom, as both have been listed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list.

Editor -in-Chief