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EDITORIAL

In conjunction with the publication of this issue, it gives us great pleasure to announce to the archaeological community and everyone interested in the archeology of the Arab World in general, and the issue of water through the ages in particular, the publication of the book entitled “Water through the ages in the Arab World in the light of archaeological discoveries”. The book includes the work of distinguished scholars and researchers, who presented their scholarly research in the third Adumatu Conference, held in Amman, Jordan in 2018. The great importance of water in human life and in creating a settled life style is universally recognized; all ancient civilizations began and prospered in places abundant with water. Water is recognized as the lifeline for humans, plants and animals on Earth.

The book addressed these five themes: early human migrations and their relationship to water bodies; the geographical spread of archaeological sites and their relationship to water sources; irrigation and water conservation techniques; water in rock art and epigraphy; and paleoclimatic studies. The researchers participating in the book presented scholarly research based on the results of archaeological excavations in various regions of the Arab World. The research has been properly documented, making the book an important reference on its subject. It is hoped that this book will benefit everyone who studies this subject and everyone interested in it, whether archaeologists or historians, as well as scientific research centers and university libraries in the Arab World and abroad.

This third scientific achievement of the Adumatu Journal is added to the two previously issued reference books: "The City in the Arab World in the Light of Archaeological Discoveries"; and "Man and the Environment in the Arab World in the Light of Archaeological Discoveries". The journal is keen to fulfill its duty towards this achievement to serve the various topics of archeology and to add to the literature issued on those topics; thus, increasing its richness and the balance of well-founded archaeological research in these fields. The importance of having specialized books on a particular vital topic in archaeology is universally recognized, and we hope to contribute to these specialized books as much as possible.

Archaeological Discoveries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue incessantly as a result of the excavations supervised by the Saudi Heritage Commission in various

archaeological sites. The most recent of these discoveries was the archaeological discovery of evidence of the Babylonian king "Nabonidus", which was found in the Al Hait Governorate in the Hail Region in the northern part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it is estimated to date back to the middle of the 6th Century BC.

This important archaeological discovery consists of an inscription on one of the basalt rocks, embodying the image of the Babylonian king "Nabonidus" holding a scepter. Religious symbols also appear in front of the King, with writing in cuneiform script, and this has been the longest written text, 26 lines of script, belonging to the Babylonian King in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until now.

It goes without saying that this discovery provides new evidence of the historical role of the Arabian Peninsula and its cultural connection with the adjacent civilizations of the ancient Near East, especially the civilizations that prevailed in Mesopotamia. This discovery is a valuable addition to the previous discoveries that included inscriptions and stone obelisks in many archaeological sites between Tayma and Hail, where the king of Babylon "Nabonidus" was mentioned. This confirms that the Arabian Peninsula has had cultural communication and trade relations with the ancient civilizations around it, including civilizations in Mesopotamia. The new discovery will add to the previous discoveries new material that needs to be studied and analyzed by archaeologists and specialists to infer the relationship of this discovery to the region and other archaeological sites.

Dr. Abdulaziz Mahmoud Laraj
An archaeologist passes away

With great sorrow, and believing in destiny, the editorial family received the news of the death of a member of the advisory board of Adumatu Journal, Prof. Abdul Aziz bin Mahmoud bin Saleh Laraj, on Sunday, Ramadan 13 1442 AH (May 25, 2021 AD); may the deceased rest in peace.

Prof. Laraj was born in the city of Sidi Abdel Aziz, Jijel District now, in Algeria in 1948 AD. He was one of the scholars of Islamic archaeology, medieval and modern history, and one of the few professors and researchers interested in the Arab-Islamic heritage. Throughout his academic career, he spared no effort in this regard; his academic work was characterized with hard work and perseverance, publishing many well-founded scientific research, and dedication to his duty to raise generations of qualified researchers during his work in Algerian universities. At the end of his academic career, he worked as a professor of archeology at the Institute of Archeology in Algiers, as well as other Arab universities, including: King Saud University in Riyadh, and the University of Hail , in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The late Dr. Laraj began his higher education at the University of Algiers, where he graduated with a BA in History in 1973. He then moved to Cairo University, where he joined the Faculty of Archeology, and finished the first stage of postgraduate studies, majoring in Islamic archeology in 1977 AD. He later received a master's degree, majoring in Islamic arts, in 1982 AD. After that, he moved to the First Sorbonne University in France, where he obtained his Ph.D degree with honors, and the commendation of the Viva committee in 1993 AD.

The Late Prof. Laraj held several prestigious academic responsibilities in Algeria and abroad, including: Member of the Scientific Committee for evaluating research projects, and the promotion of university professors in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Member of the scientific committee for the preparation of educational programs in the field of archeology at the level of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Coordinator of research laboratories working in the field of valuing and promoting the manuscript heritage in Algeria; Director of the Civilization Building Laboratory for the Central Maghreb (Algeria); and a founding member of the Union of Arab Archaeologists.

As for archaeological fieldwork, the Late Prof. Laraj organized an archaeological excavation at the site of the city of Mansoura in the city of Tlemcen between the years (1985-1994) AD. The excavation resulted in important archaeological discoveries. He also participated in supervising an archaeological excavation expedition in recent years in the Hail Region, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the field of scientific research, he published five books, four of them as a single author. He also discussed and supervised many archeology graduate students in many universities, focusing on architectural engineering, Islamic archaeology and medieval and modern history. May Allah Almighty make all his achievements and good deeds part of his everlasting legacy.

Editor -in-Chief