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Adumatu

A Semi-Annual Archaeological Refereed Journal on the Arab World



ABDULRAHMAN AL-SUDAIRY CULTURAL CENTRE



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Cover Photo: A Safaitic Inscription on a Basalt Stone Found at Wadi Hulihil, Jordanian Badia Documenting one of the Events that Occurred in the North of the Arabian Peninsula..



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EDITORIAL

The Registration of Hima Cultural Area

Important archaeological and cultural sites both in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, thankfully continue to be registered on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This process aims at documenting and protecting these sites, reaffirming the cultural depth of the people who lived on these sites on this blessed land. Hima Cultural Area has been registered for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and this is the sixth Saudi heritage site registered on the World Heritage List.

The registration of the “Hima Cultural Area” in Najran Region, in south west Saudi Arabia, represents a new success for the efforts that aims at protecting traditional and archaeological sites in the Kingdom. With its wide geographical area across the Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia is rich in important heritage and archaeological sites that represent an important and strategic part on the map of the human civilizations that the Kingdom has witnessed during various historical eras. The registration of these heritage sites on the World Heritage List aims provides the protection and rehabilitation these sites need in accordance with international standards. This action reaffirms the cultural role of the Kingdom, the rich historical depth of those sites and the pride the Kingdom takes in its national identity. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia regards its national heritage as one of its main components, based on the Saudi Vision 2030.

The Hima Cultural Area is located on an area of 557 km², including more than five hundred rock panels, with hundreds of rock art images and inscriptions written in ancient scripts, such as Al-Qalam, Thamudic, Nabati, and Southern Musnad script, as well as some early Arabic inscriptions and others.

The area also includes various types of stone structures and stone tool sites, with the oldest dating back to the Acheulean period and continuing to the Neolithic period.

Hima Cultural area was an important station for commercial caravans travelling towards the north or south of the Arabian Peninsula. The area has had a number of water wells where caravans had their water supplies to ensure their safety, having enough water when crossing deserts and desolate areas.

The Fourth Adumatu Conference

With the publication of this issue, Adumatu Journal announces its intention to hold its fourth conference. This conference will be held from 14-15 Shawwal 1444 AH, 4-5 May 2023 AD, entitled

"Religious Structures in the Arab World through the Ages, in the Light of Recent Archaeological Discoveries".

The editorial board of Adumatu has decided that the conference would be held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, to stress that Adumatu plays a significant role as a 'bridge' of communication between its place of origin in Al-Jouf Region, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other brethren Arab countries. This decision also stresses Adumatu's contribution to the realization of social communication and distribution of archaeological knowledge in the Arab World.

Moreover, the editorial board of Adumatu welcomes the participation of researchers from various Arab and international countries that contributes to the enrichment of scientific research. In addition, the conference will be an opportunity for scientific dialogue between archaeologists and participating researchers in matters concerning modern religious structures in the Arab World. The conference will also be an opportunity to learn about the historical and cultural aspects that the various regions of the Arab World have experienced through the ages.

A farewell to those we lost

The Arab archaeological family recently lost two of its prominent archaeologists. The first was Professor Youssef Mukhtar Al-Amin, Secretary of the Arab Council of the General Union of Arab Archaeologists, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sudanese Authority for Antiquities and Museums, and the former Director of the International University of Africa. Adumatu Journal was also honored by his membership to its advisory board, as well his valuable contributions in the areas of publishing and academic refereeing.

Professor Al-Amin graduated from the Department of History, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Khartoum in 1971 AD. After that, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Archeology from the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology at Cambridge University, England in 1975 AD, and Master's and PhD Degrees from the same faculty in 1979 AD. He worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Archeology at the University of Khartoum until 1983 AD. After that, he joined King Saud University, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to work in the Department of Archeology and Museums at the Faculty of Arts. Upon the completion of his tenure at King Saud University, Professor Al-Amin moved to the International University of Africa to work in the Department of Archeology, and then assumed the position of Rector of the University for a limited period. He chose to resign from this position to devote his time to scientific research; It was not long before he passed away, may Allah bless his soul.

Professor Al-Amin was known for his generosity and dedication to his work, and he excelled in educational performance and research. He also supervised a large number of students, who benefited from his knowledge and expertise in the various fields of archaeology and heritage. Professor Al-Amin, along with his colleagues, have made an effective and tangible contribution to the growth and distinction of the Department of Archeology at King Saud University, especially in developing and proposing academic curricula and scientific courses that address the philosophical and societal

aspects of archeology. Professor Al-Amin, along with his colleagues, Prof. Al-Abbas Sayed Ahmed and Dr. Abdullah M. Alsharekh, had the scientific lead in obtaining a research grant from King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology to conduct a field study of the archaeological site of Al-Thumamah in Riyadh Region. Their research led to distinctive and unique results.

His scientific legacy in the fields of authorship and translation included a book in Arabic entitled “Ethnoarchaeology: The Archaeological Study of Contemporary Material Culture”, 2008. He also translated many books, including: *Girls of Sheba* 2001, *Features of the Traditional Culture of the Asir Province* 2002 AD, *The Land of Madyan* 2003 AD, and many others. Professor Al-Amin also published several scientific and cultural articles in various Arab publications. He was also keen to promote awareness regarding archeology and heritage issues and their significance in contemporary life. The Arab Council of the Union of Arab Archaeologists honored Professor Al-Amin with the Appreciation Award for Arab Archaeologists in 2009 for his scientific contributions and efforts in research.

The second Adumatu member who will be missed is Dr. Noura Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Na'im, a member of the advisory board of Adumatu, and a faculty member at King Saud University. She specialized in the ancient history of the Arabian Peninsula, especially in the history of Sheba, the Himyarite Kingdom. Dr. Noura was internationally known for her ability to read, study and analyze the texts of the Southern Musnad script.

Dr. Noura completed her undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral studies at King Saud University, majoring in the ancient history of the Arabian Peninsula. She worked at the same university as a faculty member since 1404 AH (1984 AD), then as a deputy for the Department of History, thereafter as a deputy for the College of Arts. She was a member of the Saudi Historical Society, the Society of History and Archeology in the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Union of Arab Historians, and the British Society for Arabic Studies. In 1412 AH, she had a book published on the economic situation in the Arabian Peninsula from the 3rd Century BC to the 3rd Century AD. Also, in 1420 AD, she published the book of legislation in southwestern Arabia until the end of The Himyarite Kingdom.

She was known, may her soul rest in peace, for her talent, wisdom, dedication to work, and passion to attend scientific conferences and forums in her field of specialization, whether inside the Kingdom or abroad. In partnership with her brothers and sisters, She established an award in the honor of their father, His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Na'im, titled “Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Na'im Award for Service to the History and Archeology of the Arabian Peninsula”. A year later, she requested the establishment of a similar award in the Union of Arab Historians at the level of the Arab World under the title “Abdullah Al-Na'im Award for Service to the History and Civilization of the Arab World”.

May Allah have mercy on their kind souls.

Editor -in-Chief