

EDITORIAL

With all citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we have witnessed the colossal projects of sacred Grand Mosque at Makkah the leader of this homeland the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques had launched. Many are the projects, and billions they have cost. Yet, in comparison to what remains for history to record and to what will crown the history of the Saudi State throughout the ages, billions are nothing. Not only will these projects exceed the area of what has so far been built, but will also cover old and new spaces. The admirable and charming tribute of the prince of eloquence, HRH Prince Khalid al-Faisal, the Amir of Makkah Region, rose to the occasion and expressed the feelings of pride every citizen has felt. His tribute vividly spoke to that benevolence preoccupying the mind of our King who has always done his utmost to meet the needs of the homeland. He has at this stage provided all technological and technical means that articulate the characteristics of Islamic architecture. If Muslims throughout the ages had shown their creativity in all corners of the world, our King at the present has set the kingdom on the road oft putting it on equal footing with the most advanced countries. He has set his goal to have the Kingdom a minaret towards which the hearts of Muslims throughout the world eagerly burn to see and enjoy this magnificent achievement. For such a feat all Muslim will surely pray to Almighty Allah to reward the King with bless and health; his achievement is nothing less than a memorable service to Islam and Muslims.

If our ancient history has led the UNESCO to recognize our sources of pride at al-Hijr (Mada' en Saleh) and the heroic actions at Dir'ayea, the world will surely recognize our achievements in the same way Herodotus acknowledged the greatness of the Gardens of Babylon.

From its northern borders to its southern limits, the Arabian Peninsula has proved to the world how replete it is with ancient historical archaeology. A shining evidence is the unique archaeological find in a site called "al-Maqar" between Tathlieth Province in the Assir Region and Wadi al-Dawaser in the Riyadh Region. The find includes various statuettes of animals the dweller of that area had domesticated and used in daily activities. Of these are the sheep, goat, ostrich, saluki, falcon, and horse. Dating back several thousands years, the discovery is an important archaeological event worldwide. It proves that horse domestication originated in the Arabian Peninsula.

Horses, the joy of our King, had of old been roaming the Arabian Peninsula north and south, and then were introduced to Egypt, charming those kings and serving their chariots. The importance of the Arabian Peninsula is too evident in a lately discovered Pharaoh text in Tayma which testifies

to the town's status as an international market serving all peoples who used to hail from Babylon, Syria, Egypt, and beyond (Rome and Greece). With the horse, another important instrument migrated; namely, the "letter" which reached the Maghrib and helped later to promote the divine message of Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him.

And since I am looking back at the old history of this area, I am reminded that the Nabateans of the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula had dubbed their King al-Harith IV "the King who loved his people." In our time we have all the right to name our King "the King whose people love him," and thus has won, thanks be to Almighty Allah, the grace of God and the love of the people.

We pray that Allah Almighty bless King Abdullah, the benefactor of his Arab and Islamic nation and the world at large; he has embarked on the same road his ancestors traveled, especially in terms of building and construction.

On the morning of Friday (Sha'ban 28, 1432Hijra – July 29, 2011Gregorian) Dr. Fawaz al-Kheraisha passed away (may Allah bless his soul). I have known him personally, having taught him the Pre-Islamic History of the Arabian Peninsula. At the time, he proved to be a promising student and was among the few who passed the course with distinction. When he first came from Jordan for his Bachelor Degree Fawaz chose to join the Department of Arabic at King Saud University in Riyadh. After graduation, he soon pursued his higher studies and earned his Ph.D. from Germany in the field of Ancient Languages and Archaeology. With this high qualifications he started his academic life at several Jordanian universities and assumed several important positions: Dean of the College of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University, and from 1999 to 2010 Director General of the Authority of Archaeology in Jordan. He then went back to teaching and academic life at the university. In terms of publications (as an expression of his gratitude), Fawaz chose Adumatu for one of his studies. He will certainly be missed, may he rest in peace with Allah's blessings and mercy.

On the first day of Holy Ramadan 1432Hijra (August 1, 2011 Gregorian) Mr. Hadi al-Faifi also passed away. He was a graduate of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, King Saud University. Hadi had indeed a fair share of the meaning of his first name (Quiet), but was diligent and attentive in his work. King Saud University rewarded his diligence with a scholarship to Germany to specialize in metal restoration; having successfully completed his studies, al-Faifi came back and got occupied in his specialized vocation. As expected, absorbed in his work as always he normally used to be, I oftentimes entered and left his lab without his awareness of my presence. Al-Faifi had been able to treat many archaeological pieces discovered at the historical Village of Fau.

Owing to family issues he, however, moved to Assir Region where he became Director of the

Archaeological Department. He remained the diligent, assiduous man he had always been until his early death heart-rended his family and friends. He had not yet passed his fourth decade. May Allah bless his soul and endow him with the bounty of Allah's unlimited mercy.

Both al-Kheraisha and al-Faifi have generously served their nation; we can only pray that Allah Almighty receive them well, reward them for their valuable services, and grace them with his mercy.

Professor Abdulrazzaq Ahmed al-Mua'mmary wrote "The Periodization of the Pre-Historic Studies of the Arabian Peninsula," a paper published in al-Darah journal (3rd issue of the 36th year, Rajab 1432H). For him, these studies passed through three stages, and in the third he placed Adumatu and its interest in pre-historic studies. Of Adumatu, he writes:

"This stage is marked by the arrival of the third millennium (the second decade of the Hijra 15th Century) and its first crucial events the consequences of which weighed heavily on the world including archaeological studies. One important characteristic of this stage has been the escalation of the age of globalization, along with its direct effects on human lives; and archaeological studies have, in one way or another, been influenced by this growing phenomenon. Specialized in publishing archaeological studies relevant to the Arabian Peninsula in particular and the Arab world in general, the journal Adumatu appeared as an outcome of this general setting.

"The writer's justifications for taking Adumatu as a salient landmark of this stage include: its timely appearance at the dawn of the third millennium; its particular specialization in the archaeologies of the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab world; its inclusive belonging to world archaeologists who write on the archaeologies of this region; its interest in the stone age; its bilingual Arabic and English languages; the journal's move from the local to the Arab and international domains; and the practical role it plays in facilitating real dialogue among civilizations through the scholarly archaeological work researchers exchange on its pages.

"Adumatu can indeed become at this stage a distinguishing hallmark of archaeological studies in the Arab world in general and in the Arabian Peninsula in particular if it is better developed and if it receives more attention. In its short time, Adumatu has attracted both international and regional scholarly interests for various reasons. Few of these come immediately to mind: the absence of specialized archaeological outlets or real contenders in the field; its bilingual (Arabic and English) medium; its timely appearance in response to an urgent local demand for such a specialized publication; and pressing historic world events. Additionally, Adumatu's other scholarly interests enhanced its standing: it extended its interests to areas neve-or-ill-served in other outlets. High among these one may point to its First 3-day Forum on the "Inception of the Town in the Arab World," held in 1426Hijra (2005 Gregorian) in Jouf (in the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula); and one may also note the fact that now Adumatu is getting ready for its Second Forum on "Man and Environment." To these one may finally add the fame of its editor which has reflected itself on the reputation of the journal and enhanced trust in its material."

Editor -in-Chief