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EDITORIAL

The 25th Anniversary of Adumatu

With the publication of this issue, Adumatu celebrates its Silver Jubilee; serving the publication of archaeological scientific research in the Arab World. The journey began in January 2000 AD, (Shawwal 1420 AH). It has continued publishing articles and scientific reports on the antiquities and heritage of the Arab World in both Arabic and English twice a year ever since.

The idea of publishing a biannual archaeological journal began with an invitation for a consultative meeting by Dr. Ziyad bin Abdulrahman Al-Sudairy, under the auspices of the Abdulrahman Al-Sudairy Cultural Center. The meeting included Prof. Abdulrahman Al-Tayeb Al-Ansari, Dr. Abdulwahid bin Khalid Al-Hamid, and Dr. Suleiman bin Matil Al-Jarid. They all agreed to have a new scientific archaeological journal published, called "Adumatu;" the ancient name for Dumat Al-Jandal Governorate in the Al Jawf Province, Saudi Arabia. The name of the journal was chosen for its cultural significance to an area that experienced important events in the northern Arabian Peninsula. It is also such a beautiful coincidence that the publication of the first issue of Adumatu coincides with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrating the centenary of its founding by the great leader, King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud.

We also pay tribute to our colleagues who accompanied the journal's inception, starting with the first issue, and contributed to establishing its foundations, headed by its first Editor-in-Chief Prof. Al-Ansari, may his soul rest in peace. Since the beginning, he has also been accompanied, by Prof. Khalil Al-Muaiqil and Dr. Abdullah Al-Sharikh as two Editorial Board members. After that, Dr. Muhammad bin Sultan Al-Otaibi joined the Editorial Board in 2014, and Mr. Muhammad Sawana ran the activities and conferences of the journal.

The Editorial Board, headed by the late Prof. Al-Ansari, may his soul rest in peace, and his successor, Dr. Khalil bin Ibrahim Al-Muaiqil, has been keen to make sure the journal follows a clear and sound approach in its published research and field reports. The Board has also ensured that the journal maintains basic research standards for distinguished scientific publishing and that published research is peer-reviewed impartially by independent reviewers, whose recommendations are then presented to the researchers for discussion and clarification of any observations they may have on the points in the reviewers' reports. The Editorial Board has been keen to give researchers the right to express their opinions on scientific issues, and no directions that violate freedom of scientific opinion are imposed. The Board made sure that differences of opinion were respected, in light of established scientific standards. Over the past 25 years, the Editorial Board has been pleased with the feedback and praise it has received from the research and scientific community for the journal and its scientific credibility, for the efforts to preserve researchers' rights and ensure fair review.

Since its inception, Adumatu has taken the responsibility of publishing peer-reviewed archaeological research papers and studies, serving as a platform for publishing scientific research

that addresses archaeological issues in the Arab World. Adumatu, the Journal, serves as a platform for Arab archaeologists to communicate, just as the historic city of Adumatu served as a bridge between the civilizations that prevailed in the Arabian Peninsula and the neighboring civilizations throughout history.

The way Adumatu has been received upon its publication and the impression generated by its first issue among Arab archaeologists profoundly impacted its founders and administrators. The journal came to fulfill the need for a publishing platform based on sound scientific and artistic publishing principles, characterized by quality, clarity of vision, and authenticity of the message. Adumatu has always sought to create a broad forum for constructive dialogue among archaeologists and an essential contributor to solid, peer-reviewed academic publishing. The journal has been dedicated to publishing research and studies on the findings of archaeological excavations in the Arabian Peninsula and other Arab countries, promoting archaeological discoveries and the rich human cultural heritage in the Arab World. Furthermore, Adumatu has been a resort for archaeological researchers seeking a reliable scientific publication platform for their research. Therefore, the journal has opened its doors to research related to archeology in the Arab World from worldwide researchers, and researchers who participated in archaeological missions operating in various Arab countries to uncover the relics of human civilizations in the Arab World throughout the ages.

Over the past 25 years, Adumatu has followed a distinctive path that sets the journal apart from other journals. It is known for its commitment to the principles of reliable scientific publishing, beginning with the specialized scientific review of submitted research and demanding that researchers comply with the recommendations of review committees. Adumatu has never compromised on review issues to maintain the integrity of the research published. The journal has also observed the highest technical design, layout, and printing standards.

The Editorial Board has always sought the views of specialists with scientific expertise in archaeological research. Since the first issue, Adumatu Editorial Board has always chosen advisory bodies of archaeologists and professors of archaeology colleges from national and international universities worldwide. These advisory bodies have successively been appointed to support the Editorial Board's direction and to share their expertise in the service of the journal.

Arab and non-Arab researchers have contributed to Adumatu Issues published up to this one, with their scientific research on the archaeology of the Arab World. The research papers published in Adumatu have varied between papers on the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula, the Levant, Iraq, and the Arab countries in Africa. Adumatu has thus become an authentic reference and beacon for researchers and people interested in the archaeology of the Arab World and the civilizations that have prevailed throughout the ages. The journal has also become an important reference, enriching the literature of archaeological research in libraries in general, and university libraries in the Arab World and elsewhere, with research related to the archaeology of the Arab World.

It is also worth noting that Adumatu took the initiative to hold three scientific conferences, with the participation of numerous archaeologists and researchers from Arab and international universities. Each conference focused on an archaeological topic of importance to the Arab World. The first conference, held in Sakaka in 2005, was titled "The City in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries: Origins and Development." The second conference, also held in

Sakaka in 2010, was titled “Man and the Environment in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries.” However, the third conference, held at the Jordan Museum in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2018, was under the title “Water Through the Ages in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries.” Adumatu Editorial Board documented the research presented at these conferences in special volumes, with copies distributed to university libraries in the Arab countries, making them available to researchers and other interested parties.

On this auspicious occasion, we recall with tribute and pride the efforts of all those who have contributed to Adumatu illustrious journey; researchers, scholars, editors, and technicians, who have spared no effort to ensure that the journal remains a leading platform for specialized archaeology. This Silver Jubilee of the Journal is not merely a milestone; it is rather a moment of reflection on the achievements made and to envision brighter future prospects for archaeology in the Arab World.

As we persistently stride toward the future, we affirm that Adumatu is unwaveringly committed to continuing its mission of publishing authentic archaeological knowledge, encouraging innovative research, and expanding the circle of those interested in archaeology and the rich cultural heritage in the Arab World. Our celebration today is a renewal of our pledge and a declaration that our historical roots are the foundation of our movement toward a future with greater awareness and understanding of ourselves and our identity. Let us make this special issue of Adumatu a new starting point toward further enlightenment that enriches our understanding of the civilizations that have prevailed throughout the Arab World throughout history, as well as the archeological artifacts they have left behind.

At this pivotal moment, we recall with appreciation and gratitude the efforts of everyone who contributed to building this unrivaled scientific institution; pioneer members, professors, researchers, editors, and technicians, who believed in the mission of Adumatu and worked diligently and sincerely to ensure that it remains at the forefront of specialized archaeological journals. On this occasion, the Adumatu Editorial Board affirms the continuation of the journey, renewing its pledge to continue publishing authentic knowledge and encourage pioneering research that uncovers more secrets of the ancient civilizations that have prevailed in the Arab World throughout history.

Our ambitions go beyond our memorable past; we look with determination and dedication toward a future where the role of Adumatu will grow in influence and power, serving archaeology and Arab and human heritage, advancing scientific research and archaeological researchers in the Arab World.

Hard copy publishing was once the norm; however, digital publishing today has emerged with the power of reaching a wider audience of researchers and interested parties. Therefore, many scientific publishing media have shifted to a digital format, due to the spread, ease, and speed of access it provides. In addition, digital publishing offers significant opportunities for citing published research on a much broader scale compared to hard copy publishing. As a result, Adumatu sought to meet the demands of the current era by joining the ‘digital publishing movement’, while maintaining the hard copy publishing required by some information sources from university specialized public libraries. Moreover, Adumatu seeks to reach academic classification in the scientific databases, noting that it has been included in the Arab Citation & Impact Factor (ARCIF).

Editor -in-Chief