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EDITORIAL

Adumatu continues its trajectory as a reputable scientific platform for archaeological research in the Arab World. Based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it serves as a channel for scholarly exchange, connecting archaeologists in the Kingdom with their counterparts across the Arab World and beyond who share an interest in the antiquities of the region and its cultural diversity throughout the ages.

In this context, the journal has decided to hold its fourth conference, scheduled to take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain in December 2026. The theme of the conference will be “Religious Structures in the Arab World throughout the Ages in Light of Archaeological Discoveries.” The selection of this theme represents a natural extension of the gradual scientific approach that Adumatu has adopted in its conferences. The journal has consistently sought to contribute to highlighting fundamental issues in the history of the Arab world and its civilizations, relying on the latest archaeological discoveries and the renewed scientific interpretations they offer. Religious structures, with their spiritual, architectural, and cultural significance, constitute some of the most prominent evidence of human belief systems and of the development of urban patterns and forms of symbolic expression across time.

Religious institutions have served as centers of cultural influence and as spaces encompassing various aspects of human activity throughout successive eras. They are not merely places of worship, but also indicators of social organization, the evolution of architectural arts, and interaction among cultures. Examining them through archaeological discoveries provides researchers with the opportunity to re-examine religious history in the Arab World from a scientific perspective grounded in material evidence.

This fourth conference continues the series of scientific conferences organized by the Adumatu. Together, these conferences form a comprehensive knowledge project addressing key issues in the history of the Arab World from an archaeological perspective. The first conference, held in Al-Jawf, Saudi Arabia, was titled “The City in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries: Evolution and Development.” It focused on the emergence and development of cities, patterns of human settlement, and the associated economic, social, and cultural transformations. The research presented contributed to revealing new dimensions in understanding the development of the Arab civilization and the role of cities in shaping its identity.

This was followed by the second conference, also held in Al-Jawf, titled “Man and Environment in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries.” The conference raised important questions about the relationship between human societies and the natural environment, and how this relationship influenced lifestyles, methods of production, and patterns of migration and settlement. The studies presented highlighted the ability of Arab societies to adapt to diverse environments, ranging from arid deserts to fertile oases and rich coastal regions, relying on archaeological evidence that revealed

advanced skills in the management of natural resources.

The third conference was held in Amman, Jordan, and hosted by the Jordan Museum, in line with Adumatu's vision of strengthening its role as a platform for collaboration among researchers across the Arab World. The theme of the conference was “Water through the Ages in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries.” Water has long been the essential lifeline and a decisive factor in the development of civilizations and the establishment of early communities. Ancient civilizations evolved and flourished in areas where water was available. The research presented at this conference focused on water management systems, including canals, dams, and cisterns, as well as on the innovations developed by Arab societies to ensure the sustainability of this indispensable resource. Archaeological discoveries in this field have highlighted human ingenuity in addressing environmental challenges and in building balanced systems of living.

These three conferences shared a defining feature: all submitted research was required to be based on new archaeological discoveries. This gave them a renewed scientific character and contributed to enriching archaeological knowledge, broadening research horizons, and moving beyond repetition. The fourth conference follows the same approach, inviting researchers to present original work based on excavation results, recent analyses, and reinterpretations of archaeological discoveries.

It is worth noting that the three conferences presented a total of sixty-nine research papers, including fifty-three in Arabic and sixteen in English. Participants included archaeologists from several Arab and European countries, as well as from the United States and Japan, presenting valuable research that combined historical inquiry with archaeological evidence. The studies were based on excavation results from various regions of the Arab World, producing well-documented findings worthy of further study and development. Adumatu has ensured the publication of these conference proceedings in special volumes, making them important references in their respective fields.

As attention turns to the Kingdom of Bahrain as the host of this conference, this choice underscores the Adumatu's commitment to serving as a platform that brings together researchers from across the Arab World. It also carries important implications for strengthening collaborative scientific efforts among Arab institutions in the field of archaeological research. The Kingdom of Bahrain possesses a rich cultural heritage and longstanding connections to the civilizations of the Arabian Peninsula. Hosting the conference in Bahrain will provide researchers with an opportunity to explore its antiquities and the diverse historical periods it has witnessed.

In this context, Adumatu reaffirms its role as a platform for scientific publication and scholarly exchange, bringing together researchers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with their counterparts across the Arab world and in international universities specializing in the study of Arab antiquities. Since its inception, Adumatu has remained committed to publishing rigorous, original, and

methodologically sound research, and to providing opportunities for scholars to exchange ideas and experiences, thus contributing to the advancement of archaeological research. It also seeks to foster an integrated research community based on dialogue, interaction, and openness to diverse scientific perspectives. Through its conferences and publications, Adumatu continues to contribute to this goal by supporting high-quality, peer-reviewed research in archaeology. Indeed, it serves as a dynamic platform for discussion, the exchange of perspectives, and the development of productive scientific partnerships.

Through its focus on the Arab region, Adumatu also aims to strengthen a shared scholarly identity by emphasizing the richness of archaeological heritage in the Arab World as an integral part of human history. In doing so, it serves a dual purpose: advancing scientific knowledge and promoting cultural awareness, while encouraging the preservation of this heritage.

Adumatu expresses its deep appreciation for the sustained support provided by the Abdul Rahman Al-Sudairy Cultural Center, which has been instrumental in enabling it to continue its work and develop its activities in both publishing and the organization of scientific conferences. This support reflects the Center's strong belief in the importance of scientific research and its role in serving society and promoting awareness of cultural heritage. It also demonstrates its commitment to fostering collaboration among archaeological researchers in Saudi Arabia, the Arab World, and international institutions.

The editorial board also extends its sincere gratitude to the sons of His Excellency the late Emir Abdul Rahman bin Ahmed Al-Sudairy for their generous support of Adumatu and its activities. Special thanks are due to Faisal bin Abdul Rahman Al-Sudairy, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center; Dr. Ziyad bin Abdul Rahman Al-Sudairy, Managing Director; and Sultan bin Faisal Al-Sudairy, Director General of the Center, for their continued support.

Adumatu will remain committed to its mission, continuing its role as a bridge of knowledge, a platform for dialogue, and a supporter of scientific creativity. It strives to serve researchers and to contribute to uncovering new chapters in the history of the Arab World, guided by archaeological evidence, scientific methods, and the dedication of its scholarly community.

Editor -in-Chief