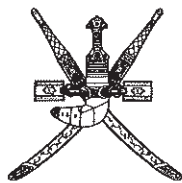


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His Majesty Sultan Qaboos at the Inauguration of the Oman Museum, Qurm.

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Correspondence relating to the Journal should be addressed to:
The Editor, P.O. Box 612, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

The transliteration of Arabic is as given by each author. Similarly, the method of notations, bibliographical references and the like is the authors.

Foreword

The Sultanate of Oman takes pleasure in publishing this first volume of *The Journal of Oman Studies*. We are grateful, first, to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, whose keen interest in the cultural, historical, and archaeological aspects of his country has been an inspiration to us all.

We are also grateful to all those Omanis and to those friends of Oman who have given so much help and encouragement to us and to the projects described in this Journal. In turn, all those who have carried out the projects and studies have asked us to say how much they appreciated the many kindnesses bestowed upon them by so many people in Oman.

The Department of Antiquities was established in the Ministry of Information and Culture in 1973. This was done by the Ministry, in part, as a recognition of the efforts and interest of the Historical Association of Oman whose members had been active in collecting examples of Omani arts and crafts with the intention of one day placing them in a National Museum.

Pending the establishment of the National Museum, and recognising the importance of the display of some of the Omani cultural heritage, the Ministry decided to set up a small museum. This was done in a building in the Ministry compound and it is known as the Oman Museum. It was opened by H.M. the Sultan on 17th November 1974, and to the public soon thereafter.

It is fitting in this first volume of *The Journal of Oman Studies* that we pay tribute to the memory of Andrew Williamson who, in 1973, gave up a promising academic career at Oxford University in order to advise the Ministry on antiquities, and who was unfortunately killed in an accident in the Sultanate in early 1975. Indeed, the publication of this Journal was his idea and we hope that it may remain an enduring monument to him.

Sayyid Fahad Al Said,
Minister of Information and Culture.

Muscat, November 1975.

