

I am sorry to hear of the death of Sheikh Nasser in December. What a loss not just for his many friends and associates but for Kuwait as well.

I only met Sheikh Nasser once during the time I was in Kuwait with Martha Carter working on the important Sasanian pieces in the Collection. What was immediately apparent to me was his interest in and fascination with the amazing array of objects he had acquired. He wanted to know about our thoughts and ideas and obviously enjoyed broadening the collection beyond the limits of the Islamic period to include masterpieces from earlier millennia.

Sheikh Nasser also clearly took pleasure in welcoming and interacting with the scholars and scientists who came from all over the world to work on parts of the Collection and made a personal effort to meet and talk with them.

I do not myself know what led to his wide-ranging interests but his acuity and sincerity in establishing an ancient Near Eastern art collection and having it properly documented by a wide range of experts has surely made Kuwait another center for the study and appreciation of the lands and cultures of the ancient Near Eastern world. For that we can all be thankful.

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