

Sheikh Nasser Sabah al-Sabah

It has been more than twenty years since Thames & Hudson published the first volume in the series of catalogues that celebrates the Al-Sabah Collection. In that time, we have come to appreciate the true, deep passion that Sheikh Nasser possessed for historic Islamic heritage, and for the arts of world culture more broadly. It has been and continues to be an immense privilege to publish the collection, and we remain ever conscious of the precious and lasting legacy that it represents. The following words from Jamie Camplin, Thames & Hudson's Editorial and Managing Director (1979–2013), pay tribute to Sheikh Nasser on behalf of all at the company, past and present, who will continue to remember him with huge admiration and profound respect.

'I have been much saddened to hear of the death of Sheikh Nasser. While I am not qualified to write of his multifarious achievements in many diverse areas of public life, national and international, I had an immediate and very clear reaction to his qualities when I first met him to discuss a series of publications on Islamic art twenty years ago.

'This reaction had two elements. The first was purely intuitive but obvious. This was someone who had a total passion for the remarkable artifacts created over such a long period by Islamic civilization. Before we can study, we should wonder. The second was analytical. It was perfectly plain that the study was to be one of painstaking scholarship of great thoroughness, with the opportunity for the finest scholars to build upon the foundations of their knowledge to make important new contributions.

'It was further apparent that this was to be no short-term endeavour and though I have long since retired from my role as publisher at Thames & Hudson, I am happy at this otherwise sad time to see how the values embodied in Sheikh Nasser's approach have resulted in an enduring and influential monument to the arts of civilization.'

Jamie Camplin, Editorial and Managing Director, Thames & Hudson (1979-2013)