

When I first visited the al-Sabah Collection of pre-Islamic Asian antiquities in Kuwait in the year 2007, I was overwhelmed by the excellence and scope of the art that I found. I had not yet met Sheikh Nasser, but I could see that he was a person of great discernment and willingness to collect in areas of Asian art that were relatively unknown. I had spent my academic career studying the influence of Greek art in Asia, and, in this collection I found an unparalleled treasure of ancient artworks that began with the the Greeks in Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, and continued up to the Islamic Age. Later, when I met the Sheikh I could see that he not only radiated great charm, but also an intense enthusiasm for collecting. I was happy to oblige him with a catalogue of some of his treasures. While writing the catalogue, my biggest problem was that the Sheikh kept acquiring more and more incredibly fine objects, necessitating constant additions to the volume. We who are students of Late Antique Asian art will miss him greatly. He had an unerring eye and a willingness to collect the art of newly discovered areas of historical importance in Asia.

Martha Carter