

My first recollection of meeting Sheikh Nasser was some 40 years ago when he visited Sotheby's in London with Sheikha Husa to view some of the Islamic manuscripts and miniatures to be included in a forthcoming sale. I had already met Sheikha Husa in Beirut where we were both students at the American University in the late 60s / early 70s. I was lucky enough to watch them both forming the collection of Islamic art, and admired their knowledge and enthusiasm. I watched them working closely as a team when it came to acquiring pieces for the collection, and founding Dar al-Athar which I was fortunate enough to visit several times and work on the manuscripts in the collection.

I felt that Sheikh Nasser was happiest when he was in the museum handling the objects in the collection, and discussing them with the experts and curators, which in a way was a form of relaxation for him from the world of politics which was his other love. It is hard to say it, but I am sure and confident that Sheikha Husa will carry on the work, and ultimately fulfil the dream she shared so closely with Sheikh Nasser.

Nabil Saidi