

Dear Sheikha Hussah,

Having just read Navina Haidar's memorial words for your husband, Sheikh Nasser, I hasten to write to express my condolences at his passing. He and you created a remarkable partnership in the service of expanding the appreciation of Islamic art generally but particularly for the broader cultural benefit of the Kuwaiti people.

To remind you who I am, we met at a luncheon at Harvard when the organizer thought you might be interested in my efforts to revive destroyed and devastated academic libraries in Bosnia-Herzegovina through the Bosnia Library Project, which I founded and managed, 1996-2005. From 2003-2013, I endeavored to document, publicize and ameliorate the status of Iraqi libraries and archives post-invasion.

We met again at the opening of your splendid exhibit of Mughal jewels at the Met.

I have often wondered what became of the grand old residence(s) you were renovating in Syria during the cruel war that has wracked that suffering country.

I am retired from the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, but continue my work on the history of photography in the Middle East and Islamic textiles.

In spite of your great loss, I offer you my hope that your excellent and productive work will continue in Sheikh Nasser's absence.

Yours truly,

Jeffrey B. Spurr