


الوثيقة

يصدرها
مركز الوثائق التاريخية
بدولة البحرين

العدد الخامس - السنته الثالثه - المجلد الرابع - شهر ربيع الثاني 1408 هـ

ماثية



If there are historians who could not participate in the Conference, the publication of these papers in the Magazine AL-WATHEEKA would give them an opportunity to enter the dialogue, if they have anything to add, any opinion to express or any comments to offer. All these will find their due place in the preparation of the encyclopedic History of Bahrain, whose first part 'Bahrain Through The Ages' has already seen the light of the day. We are sanguine that subsequent parts of it will come out until the compilation of the history of the country from the ancient to the modern times is complete according to various periods in their context.

In this issue, AL-WATHEEKA has ventured to include a comprehensive list of all references, books and articles on the subject of Bahrain despite its length in the hope that their publication in full will help the student of the history of Bahrain to know at a glance the various sources to which he can have access, in the preparation of his studies or paper. It is well-known that the compilation of reference material constitutes the major effort of a scholar or researcher when he tries to incorporate in his study as much as possible from the books or other writings on Bahrain. This requirement has been met to the extent possible.

AL-WATHEEKA, in this issue, has presented, in its English Section, complete texts of some papers instead of summaries thereof even as it will continue to do so in subsequent issues. It should be particularly so because it now reaches the research scholars at various Centres, Libraries and Universities in Arab Countries, Europe and America. This is to promote the aim of maximum specialist participation in the recording of the history of certain periods.

God alone grants success.

Abdullah bin Khalid Al-Khalifa

shadow of which he has lived, in his writings. In such a situation, this factor has to be kept in mind in evaluating a paper whereas it may not be necessary in the case of another writer covering the same period.

We sincerely believe that we should have an open heart and an open mind in respect of all dissertations which have been contributed by foreigners about the Arab region and subject their views and conclusions to scrutiny as this is the only way to rectify errors which may have been committed either innocently or deliberately as the case may be.

One big result achieved by the Conference is that it has opened many a window on various periods of history witnessed by this region. These are the windows through which a generation of researchers may gaze at the studies presented and subject them to a sound historical analysis, and after examination and verification arrive at total objectivity free from ideological, racial or political bias.

A large number of our guest scholars have departed carrying with them many studies and papers, as well as records of discussions. A large number among them will revert to their teaching jobs in the departments of Islamic and Arabic studies in European universities. We hope they have been able to spot certain erroneous notions prevailing in respect of certain fields of study. This will afford an opportunity to their large circle of students to know the objective and truthful facets of the history of these countries. This is one aspect whereas, from another angle we sincerely hope that hereafter there will be a greater liaison between them and Arab historians and academics whom they met during the Conference so that the process of historical investigation into obscure and doubtful phases of the history of the Arab region gets a boost. The activity aimed at rectifying most writings about the history of the Arab region thus gets a fillip. This will impart a quality of impartiality, objectivity and integrity to our history which is the very basis of history-writing.

THIS ISSUE:

H.E. Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al-Khalifa

DEAR READER:

This issue of AL-WATHEEKA carries yet another bunch of papers presented to the **BAHRAIN THROUGH THE AGES CONFERENCE**, held in Bahrain in December last. At the outset let me make the assertion that the Conference achieved its intended aim. A very large number of papers were submitted, which, in my opinion, would not have been possible but for this Conference, which was attended by an impressive crowd of scholars and historians who have earned a name in history-writing.

There is no shade of doubt that the dissertations which were prepared for the occasion, whether there was an adequate chance for their presentation or not, were mostly of top grade and there is no gainsaying the fact that a great deal of effort has been put in them covering various periods of the history of our ancient state. There is also no doubt that the various papers and points of view exchanged both during the Conference sessions and informal sharing of views, contributed a great deal to shedding light on certain facts which were hidden or whose obscurity in certain source-material had not helped some of the scholars in understanding the subject in all its dimensions. Another aspect which we would like to allude to and draw attention is the need to relate the paper to its writer. For instance, when a European scholar writes about Bahrain in the Islamic period, there is no doubt that he would have presented a worthy document in style and approach but in the very nature of things he would be handicapped in not being able to absorb the spiritual dimension on which the call of Islam is based. He would doubtless nurture the residual effects of specific beliefs or religious codes under the