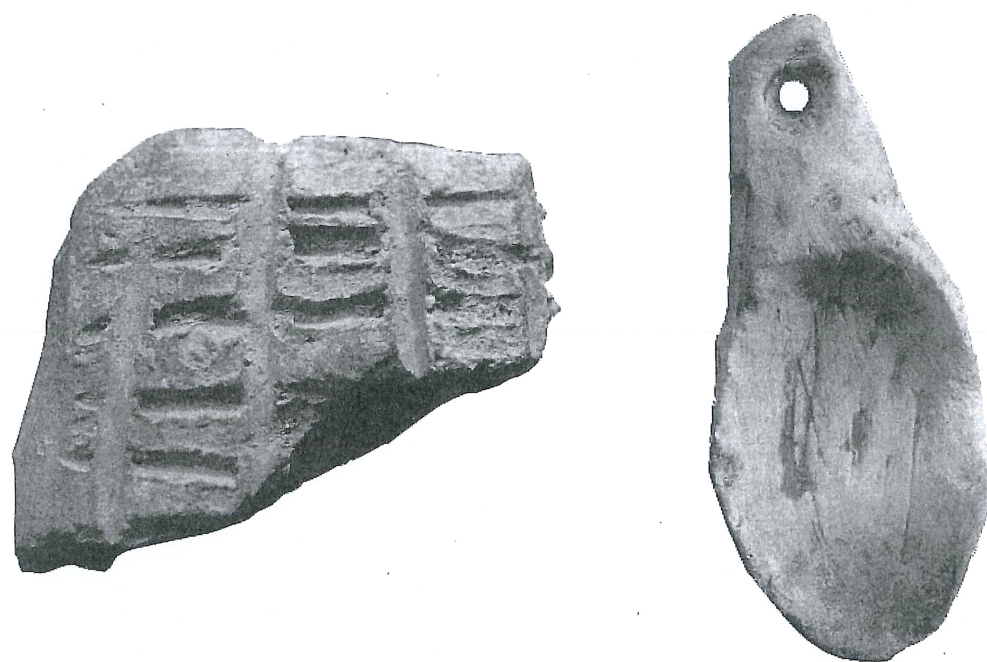


SAHAB

Chalcolithic Village Farming Community at Sahab

Volume I



Editor & Author

MOAWIYAH M. IBRAHIM

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SAHAB

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Chalcolithic Village Farming Community at Sahab

Volume I

ادخل في السجل

MOAWIYAH M. IBRAHIM

with Contributions by

**Ilse Koehler
Burno Frohlich
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Abbreviations, Symbols, Translations and Selected Glossary

AASOR	Annual of the American School of Oriental Research
ADAJ	Annual of the Department of Antiquities in Jordan
AY	Ayyubid
BA	Biblical Archaeology
BASOR	Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research
BCE	Before Common Era
c.	Approximately
CE	Common Era
Chalco.	Chalcolithic Period
EB	Early Bronze Age
EI	Eretz Israel
F.	Feature
GL	Greatest Length
GPW	Greatest Proximal Width
I I	Iron Age Period: Phase One
I II	Iron Age Period: Phase Two
IEJ	Israel Exploration Journal
JPOS	Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society
L.	Layer
LB	Late Bronze Age
<i>Maazem</i>	Ossuaries
Mam	Mamluk
MB	Middle Bronze Age
MDW	Minimal Diaphyseal Width
NRA	The Natural Resource Authority
PEQ	Palestine Exploration Quarterly
QDAP	Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine
RB	Revue Biblique
S.	Scale
Sq.	Square
UD	Undefined
W.	Wall

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Preface

The Department of Antiquities (DoA) is pleased to add the book *Sahab: "Chalcolithic Village Farming Community at Sahab"*, written and edited by Dr. Moawiyah Ibrahim, to its Publications Series. This series aims to document the rich variety of archaeological sites and discoveries in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with habitation and remains dating back to the Palaeolithic Period. This is in keeping with the DoA's policy and strategy for heritage and archaeological management in Jordan; that is, to increase awareness within the local communities, in both the private and public sectors, and additionally, to promote our diverse history and rich culture within the international community.

The author and editor of this book was a senior archaeologist at the Department of Antiquities. He commenced his journey at the DoA in 1960 as the Inspector of the al-Karak antiquities, then between 1961-1964 he became the Library Director in Amman. Between 1971-1975 he was the head of the Excavations and Studies Department, and from 1975-1979 he was the assistant to the Director General. The next step in his career was to enter the academic world as a university professor at Yarmouk University; one of the highlights of his career was his appointment as the head of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University between 1984-1991. During this time, he oversaw many projects and field seasons, not only in Jordan, where he was responsible for work in Sahab, Deir Alla, Zarkon and the Jordan Valley, but also in a number of neighbouring Arab countries, such as the Saar Bridge in Bahrain, Akaz in Kuwait, al-Balid, Wadi bani Kharous, Manal and Wadi Safafir in Oman, and Mahram Balqis, a temple in Marib, Yemen; these are a small selection only of his extensive achievements.

The archaeological site of Sahab, which is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Greater Amman Governorate, is the theme of this book. The DoA conducted many archaeological excavations in the 1970's and early 1980's of the last century; all excavations between 1972-1980 were under the supervision of Dr. Ibrahim, with archaeological discoveries indicating that the area dates to the period between the Neolithic and the Iron Age. Furthermore, archaeological surveys which were carried out in the area supported the discoveries, with 131 separate archaeological sites discovered, dating from numerous eras.

Despite the limited possibilities and circumstances, with archaeologists at that time digging archaeological squares amongst local houses, the team and the locals collaborated in a friendly atmosphere, and completed the project. The two volumes of this book are evidence of the huge amount of information and archaeological data collected from this site.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the author and editor of this book, together with the co-writers who assisted with scientific data and analysis; Ilse Kochler, Burno Frohlich, Ibrahim al-Zoubi, Amira Sob Laban, Dima abu Aisha, Lama Haddad, Abdelnasser Hindawi, Ahmed abu Dalu and Abdulrahman Srougi for their efforts with the analysis, as well as documentation in the conclusion of this important archaeological site, which has enabled the results of this study to be a reference for researchers.

I also would like to thank all those who participated in the excavations in Sahab; the technicians, photographers and artists, labourers, guards, drivers and volunteers. Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Studies and Publishing Directorate team at the Department of Antiquities, for their mammoth task in preparing this book for publication, which is the ultimate undertaking of the project.

I hope that this scientific achievement and initiative will be supportive in placing Sahab in its merited position, not only on the archaeological trails for local, regional and international tourism within Jordan, but also as a site which is worthy of further research and study.

Dr. Monther Jamhawi

Director General

The Department of Antiquities

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Introduction

The excavations at Sahab, including documenting the findings and preparing this publication, was a huge challenge for the Excavation Director and for the field work. In fact, it is difficult to recall the names of all the participants who assisted with the publication of this work, or the names of all the persons linked directly or indirectly to it. However, I hope to mention those people who have contributed to this project throughout the past four decades.

Sahab was mentioned by a number of travelers and visitors in the past, who referred to families from Sahab and the surrounding hinterland, and the most characteristic aspects of the town. Sahab is also known due to a number of cemeteries which were published by William Albright, Lancaster Harding and Rafik Dajani.

The location of the ancient settlement remained hidden until 1972, when citizens reported the discovery of a rocky tomb while digging the foundations for a house (Area A). The Department of Antiquities of Jordan asked Dr. Moawiyeh Ibrahim, due to his position as the Chairman of the Department of Excavations and Studies for the Department of Antiquities, to go and inspect the site and the nature of the discovery. Following this, he immediately formed a small team, which was comprised of: Mr. Mohammed Murshed Khadija, Mr. Ibrahim al-Hajj Hassan, Mr. Abdul Sami' abu Diyeh, Mr. Ismail Kharaz, Mr. Abdul-Fattah al-Attar and Mr. Ali abd al-Rasul

A different strategy was applied for the excavation than that which was used by previous researchers; the opening leading to the tomb was closed for a period of time, and it was decided to open a number of squares above the surface of the cave / rock tomb. We also made a number of tours around the site and collected some surface sherds. Right from the beginning the evidence indicated the importance of the site and its occupational history. A number of inspections at various locations on the site revealed the need for long-term planning, to provide enough time and resources to study the site and the excavations as much as possible.

The biggest difficulty we faced was the unwillingness of the Department of Antiquities to assist with the logistics for such a large scale project, and the absence of any financial allocation or supplies for this purpose. However, despite these obstacles, every team member realized the importance of the site and the urgency of the rescue work that had to be made. During the first season in 1972, we could not make long term plans for the future of the site. Planning had to be done every year for each season, after securing enough funding for a minimum budget, team members, wages for the workmen and transportation. Some members of the Friends of Archaeology and Heritage Society volunteered to participate in the work. Some of the workmen were paid by means of contributions from the team leader.

The encouraging factor was the determination of the team members to do the work and the people of Sahab, who cooperated as much as they were able, and gave the project a lot of support, even though we were working in front of the gates of their homes, inside their front and backyards, and even on the roads leading to their homes. They were always ready to offer us tea and food, and we were extremely grateful for their hospitality.

Perhaps this is the ideal opportunity to thank the people of Sahab, who share the credit for continuing the work as long as possible, and for the final results. Naturally, the details of the findings have already been explained to them, as well as the preliminary results. Part of the project work included an awareness campaign for the people of the houses nearest to the excavations, as well as all the local workmen. An awareness campaign was also launched for local school teachers and students, in addition to council members of the Municipality of Sahab, whose chairman was always ready and willing to offer support for our work. The Sahab Cultural Club issued a calendar illustrating the most important discoveries that had been found during the last excavation season, which demonstrates the cooperation and collaboration we received from the local community.

Volunteers played an active role in the success of the excavation. On top of the volunteers' list was His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad bin Zeid (chief of the Youth Welfare Organization at that time), who spent his vacations participating in the excavations at Sahab. Amongst the volunteers were also Mrs. Joan Undeland, Mr. Richard Undeland, Mrs. Barbara Atallah and other members of the Friends of Archaeology and Heritage Society.

We continued our efforts to gain the attention of officials from the Department of Antiquities, to ensure it would allow the work to continue, and to provide as much support as it was able for this important project. We convinced the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of the time, Mr. Ghaleb Barakat, the Director General of the Department of Antiquities, Mr. Mansour al-Bataineh and his assistant Mr. Yousef al-Alami to visit the site at the beginning of the second season in 1973. They were very impressed by the work and the description of the site. This inspired the Minister to hold a news conference at City Hall, in which he pointed out that these finds constitute a turning point in the history of archeological research for the Department of Antiquities, and that the project deserved the support and backing of the government. After that, an annual budget was allocated by the Department of Antiquities for the archaeological excavations, which were conducted by department staff.

We have already noted the kindness of the inhabitants of Sahab during the entire project, which extended for five seasons, from 1972 to 1980. We must also acknowledge the patience of the residents, and their continued cooperation with us, despite the negative impact of the excavations; the interference to their daily movements, the disruption in the construction for some new homes, and for disturbing the transportation network, as many of the streets within the town were closed. Throughout every season, they suffered from these problems, without any compensation.

The Director of Excavation for the Sahab Project was absent for nearly two years (in 1973-1974 and again in 1976) due to his appointment as a visiting professor at Freie Universität, Berlin and the University of Tübingen, as well as for a lecture tour for two months in 1979 to the United States of

America and Canada, after which he was appointed to Yarmouk University. Immediately afterwards in 1980, Yarmouk University became a partner in the project, as the university was able to cover the expenses of that season because of the support provided by Prof. Adnan Badran, the President of the University. Additionally, a group of students led by Dr. Jack Lee, from the St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, participated in this season, as well as the representatives from Yarmouk University, the Department of Antiquities and some other private individuals.

Yarmouk University also provided the funding for an archaeological survey of the Sahab hinterland in 1983 with the participation of the University of Tübingen, represented by Prof. Heinz Gaube and Carrie Gustavson-Gaube, in addition to Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, Mr. Fayez Tarawneh and Mr. Nabil al-Qadi from Yarmouk University.

Successive challenges faced the Sahab project; although many seasons had already taken place, and many important discoveries made, even the strongest supporters began to feel that the project would never be completed, despite the importance of our findings. Once we began to research the outcomes of the excavation seasons, we then believed that field work should have continued, or should be resumed, in order to clarify some aspects of the study. This feeling was strengthened by other excavators and researchers who quoted findings from Sahab in connection with their own work. Despite the long period since the last season of excavation and the destruction of a number of excavation areas, the Director of Excavations remains convinced that work on the central area of the site is still possible. It is worth mentioning that it is this area in particular where the majority of occupation layers can be found, representing habitation at the site from the Chalcolithic until the Mamluk and Ayyubid Periods. There is still hope that a new project could be initiated and the author of this publication would give as much support as possible, including as an adviser to the new project.

The Director of Excavations, despite his full schedule over the past three decades, has produced a number of preliminary reports, which have been published in the *Annals of the Department of Antiquities (ADAJ)*, and *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan (SHAJ)*, as well as a number of other articles, which have been published in journals and specialized publications as follows:

- M. M. Ibrahim, Archaeological Excavations at Sahab, 1972, *ADAJ* 17 (1972), 23-36, 117-124 (plates);
- Ibid., Second Season of Excavation at Sahab, 1973, *ADAJ* 19 (1974), 55-61, p1 XII-XXIII;
- Ibid., Third Season of Excavations at Sahab, 1975 (Preliminary Report), *ADAJ* 20 (1975), 69-82, p1. XXV- XXXIV;
- Ibid., Excavations at Sahab, *Jordan* 6 No. 3 (1981), 14-23;
- Ibid., The Collared-rim Jar of the Early Iron Age, in: *Archaeology in the Levant, Essays for Kathleen Kenyon* (Warminster, England 1978), 117-126.

Mr. Ibrahim Al Zoubi wrote his MA thesis on the Chalcolithic Period under my supervision, and submitted it to the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University in (1987). We took this thesis as a major reference to organize the main elements of this volume. Miss. Luma Haddad from the Hashemite University is preparing her MA thesis on the Late Bronze Age at Sahab and the surrounding LB sites under the supervision of Dr. Khalid Douglas and the present author.

Also, Ms. Dima Abu Aisheh the Hashemite University began her MA thesis on the Middle Bronze Age at Sahab under the supervision of Dr. Fardous Al Ajlouni and Prof. Moawiyah Ibrahim. Dr. Abdel Nasser Hindawi is studying the Iron Age pottery from Sahab, this study will be published jointly with Moawiyah Ibrahim, and it will discuss other aspects of Iron Age architectural elements, seals and jewelry.

This work would have never been achieved without the support of the White - Levy Program for Archaeological Publications. Through this program we have been able to use and share the services of number of specialists and meetings. A number of other participants were able to join this work and we were able to purchase references, equipment and other materials necessary for the project. This support comes at a time when the sources of funding for such projects are limited, especially as the principal investigator of Sahab's project is no longer affiliated with any institution.

Many who supported this project and who have contributed to it in various degrees within the first volume for Sahab are the Directors General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, such as Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi, Dr. Ghazi Bisha, Dr. Safwan Al Tall, Dr. Fawwaz Al Khraisha, and Dr. Ziyad Al Saad.

I am also indebted to Prof. Zeidan Kafafi for his support of this project since the 1970's, when graduating from the Master's program at the University of Jordan. Even today, as Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University, Prof. Kafafi continues to show cooperation and interest in the project. There are those who made direct contributions; the late Nabil Al Qadi, Youssef Al Zoubi (photographer), Ali Al Omari (surveyor and draftsman) Fayez Tarawneh, Abdulsami Abu Diyyeh, Catreena Hamarneh, Mohammad Nawasrah, Bassam Hamadneh, Hubert de Haas and many others.

Mr. Yazan Jabr has provided a significant impact on the output of this work, together with Mrs. Mariam Omar Ibrahim and Ms. Luma Haddad, while preparing an MA thesis on Late Bronze Age pottery from Sahab. Many thanks also to Dr. AbdelNasser Hindawi who classified the Iron Age pottery and supervised the movement of Sahab archaeological materials from the Yarmouk University storage rooms and the Department of Antiquities to the Jordan Museum in Amman.

I am also indebted to Dr. Faris Nimri, the former Director General of the Jordan Museum, and the former Deputy Director Dr. Kheria Amr, who allowed us to store the finds from Sahab in the museum and facilitated the study process.

And finally, a sincere thank you to my wife Buthaina and my son Sami for their efforts in this project, and for their ongoing efforts to assist with services and hospitality in our house for the last three years.

مقدمة

تقع بلدة سحاب جنوب شرق العاصمة عمان، ويتوسطها تل أثري تدمرت معظم مظاهر الاستقرار القديمة فيه نتيجة التطور العمراني الحديث، ودلت الأعمال الأثرية الحديثة التي أجريت على بقايا هذا التل على تاريخ استقرار طويل، يمتد من نهاية العصر الحجري الحديث / الحجري النحاسي (٥ - ٤ آلاف سنة ق. م) إلى العصر الحديدي. وبعد القرن السادس قبل الميلاد هُجر الموقع حتى فترة العصور الوسطى (القرن ١١ - القرن ١٣ م)، ثم دخل الموقع في فراغ تاريخي حتى القرن ١٩ م، حين سكن الموقع أهل سحاب في العصر الحديث. ويجئ هذا الكتاب بمجلديه عن سحاب ليتناول تاريخ هذه البلدة القديم في ضوء التنقيبات والتحليلات الأثرية من العصر الحجري النحاسي حتى العصر الحديدي الثاني، والتي بدأت عام ١٩٧٢ م ودامت حتى سنة ١٩٨٠ م، وقامت بها دائرة الآثار العامة الأردنية، وتبعتها سنة ١٩٨٣ م مسوحات أثرية شاملة للموقع بالتعاون مع جامعة اليرموك، وكانت جميعها بإشرافي.

جاءت جميع المربعات التي فُتحت لغايات التنقيب الأثري في المنطقة السكنية في ساحات المنازل وشوارع البلدة الحالية ومرافقها العامة الأخرى، وأظهر سكان سحاب تعاونًا غير مسبوق مع الفريق الأثري على المستويات كافة، بما في ذلك نادي سحاب والمجلس البلدي وأعضاء هيئة التدريس في مدرسة سحاب.

وأجريت حفريات سحاب دون تخطيط مسبق وبشكل اضطراري، واعتمدت على آثاريين وفنيين من دائرة الآثار العامة الأردنية وعدد من المتطوعين، خاصة من جمعية أصدقاء الآثار والتراث الأردنية والمجتمع المحلي. ورغم المحاولات الجادة لاستنفاد المواقع التي كان يمكن الحفر فيها عبر المواسم جميعها، إلا أنّ الإمكانيات ما زالت متاحة لإجراء المزيد من الحفريات الأثرية، خاصة في وسط التل/البلدة، حيث كُشف عن الطبقات الممتدة في الموقع كلها، ابتداء من العصر الحجري الحديث / العصر الحجري النحاسي وحتى العصر الحديدي الثاني (القرن السادس قبل الميلاد).

وعلى الرغم من أن جميع العينات من أدوات صوانية وكسر فخارية ومواد عضوية قد حُفظت، إلا أنّ الاختصاصات والموارد المالية لم تكن متوافرة لإجراء الدراسات عليها في ذلك الحين، وقد حرصت جامعة اليرموك على إيفاد عدد من المختصين في هذه المجالات، الأمر الذي ساعد على إجراء الدراسات اللازمة عليها وتوثيقها ونشرها علميًا.

وأود أن أؤكد أن هذا العمل أفاد إفادة كبيرة من عدد من الدراسات التي تناولت المكتشفات التي أظهرتها تنقيبات تل سحاب بالدراسة، فقد تضمنت هذه الدراسة النتائج الرئيسية التي توصلت إليها رسالة الماجستير التي أعدها السيد إبراهيم الزعبي عام ١٩٨٧ بمعهد الآثار والأنثروبولوجيا بجامعة اليرموك عن الفترة النحاسية في سحاب. وأفاد العمل كذلك من رسالة الماجستير التي أعدتها الأنسة لمى حداد بالجامعة الهاشمية تناولت العصر البرونزي

المتأخر في سحاب والمواقع المحيطه بإشرافي وإشراف الدكتور خالد دغلس، كما يجري القول نفسه على رسالة الماجستير التي أعدتها السيدة ديماء أبو عيشة من الجامعة الهاشمية عن العصر البرونزي المتوسط في سحاب بإشرافي وإشراف الدكتورة فردوس العجلوني. وعلى صعيد آخر، فقد قدم الدكتور عبد الناصر هندواي بالتعاون معي دراسة عن فخار العصر الحديدي من سحاب منشورة في هذا المجلد.

ولا يسعني وقد خرج هذا الإنجاز العلمي إلى النور إلا أن أتقدم بالشكر الجزيل إلى كل من ساهم في الجهود العلمية والإدارية التي أدت إلى ظهوره أو قدمت له العون في أي شكل من الأشكال. فأشكر دائرة الآثار العامة ممثلة بمديرها، عطوفة الدكتور منذر جمحاوي، وممثلة بالمديرين العامين السابقين للدائرة، وهم كل من الدكتور عدنان الحديدي، والدكتور غازي بيشه، والمرحوم الأستاذ الدكتور صفوان التل، والمرحوم الدكتور فواز الخريشة، والأستاذ الدكتور زياد السعد. كما أشكر منتسبي هذه الدائرة من فنيين وإداريين على مساهمتهم أيضًا. والشكر موصول لجامعة اليرموك إذ أتوجه بالشكر للأستاذ الدكتور عدنان بدران رئيس جامعة اليرموك لما قدمه لمشروع الحفريات في عام ١٩٨٠ من دعم، وللمرحوم الأستاذ الدكتور محمود الغول نائب الرئيس في حينه، وللأستاذ الدكتور زيدان كفاي ولعدد من الزملاء في معهد الآثار والأنثروبولوجيا من أكاديميين وفنيين، في مقدمتهم السادة فايز الطراونة، ونبيل القاضي، ويوسف الزعبي، وعلي العمري، ومحمد النواصرة، والمهندس بسام حمادنة. وأود التتويه هنا بأن جامعة اليرموك مولت المسح الأثري حول سحاب في عام ١٩٨٣ بمشاركة من جامعة توبنغن التي مثلها الأستاذ هاينز جاوبه (Heinz Gaube) وكاري جوستفسون (Carrie Gustavson). كما شاركت في أعمال التنقيب في ذلك الموسم مجموعة من الطلاب بإشراف الدكتور جاك لي (Jack Lee) من جامعة روتشستر بنيويورك. وأتوجه بالشكر أيضًا إلى مجموعة من الزملاء الذين شاركوا مشاركة فاعلة في حفريات سحاب، وهم الأثاريون السادة صبري العبادي، ومحمد مرشد خديجة، وعبد السميع أبو دية، وإبراهيم الحاج حسن، ولينا السعدي، إضافة إلى الفنيين والإداريين السادة اسماعيل حزاز (رسّام)، وكورت لانغر دوبرلاسكي (مساح)، وفواز الخريشة (إداري)، ومحمد المرقطن، وعبدالفتاح العطار (مصور). كما أشكر الأنسة كاترينا حمارنة والسيد هوبرت دي هاس (Mr. Hurbet de Haas).

كما أنني مدين بالشكر للدكتور فارس النمري مدير عام متحف الأردن الأسبق وللدكتورة خيرية عمرو نائبة مدير المتحف آنذاك اللذين سمحا بتخزين المواد الأثرية الخاصة بموقع سحاب في المتحف وتسهيل عملية الدراسة. والشكر موصول للسيد يزن جبر الذي عمل بجدية على إخراج هذا العمل جنبًا إلى جنب مع السيدة مريم عمر إبراهيم التي لها شكري الجزيل.

وأخيرًا وليس آخرًا، فإنه يسعدني بصورة خاصة أن أقدم شكري الجزيل والكبير لزوجتي بثينة ولابني سامي لما بذلاه من جهود في هذا المشروع من تقديم خدمات وضيافة في منزلنا على مدى السنوات الثلاث، آملاً أن أكون وزملائي الذين شاركوا في هذا الجهد العلمي قد وفقنا في إبراز أهمية هذا الموقع الأثري المتميز.

معاوية محمود إبراهيم