

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FALAJ

A FIELD STUDY OF THE ANCIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



WALID YASIN AL TIKRITI



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LEADERSHIP
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of the United Arab Emirates

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FIRST EDITION 2011

Concept & Design by
Al Waraqoon w.L.L.
www.alwaraqoon.com

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Department of Historic Environment
ABU DHABI CULTURE & HERITAGE

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ISBN 978-9948-01-949-7



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Dedication

Upon being appointed Governor of al-Ain in 1946 the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan

improved and maintained the *aflaj* irrigation systems of al-Ain and abolished trading in water, making water a free and basic right of all individuals. He said, 'Give me agriculture, and I will give you in return a civilization.' In this he followed the example of the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him), who said

“Do not withhold the blessings of water so that you are not withheld the grass.”

So, I dedicate this book to the soul of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al-Nahyan, former President of the United Arab Emirates; the first person to make the water of the *aflaj* free and who also expanded and maintained the system.

I also dedicate this book to H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, who follow in the footsteps of their father in caring for the traditional *aflaj* irrigation system and who have issued laws to protect the oases which have resulted from these ingenious *aflaj*.



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