

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

### NEXT STATUTORY MEETING

The 3rd Statutory Meeting of the Shirīn International Committee will take place at the 63rd *Rencontres Assyriologiques Internationales* (RAI) in Marburg, Germany, on Monday 24 July, 18:00 - 19.30pm.

We are currently seeking nominations from anyone interested in serving on the Shirīn Executive Board. The current members of the Executive Board have all served a two-year term. They are due to step down and need to be replaced.

We encourage any members of the Shirīn International Committee to consider nominating for one of the four positions on the Executive Board: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

### WORKSHOP

"Heritage in Conflict: A Review of the Situation in Syria and Iraq"

Monday 24 July and Tuesday 25 July

Marburg

Monday, July 24, 2017

#### **Session 1 – Syria: The Organization and Action of "Local Authorities" During the War (14:00-16:00)**

F. Braemer, R. Matthew: Introductory note

S. Ismail: Archaeological Heritage Management in Northeastern Syria

R. Abdo: Experiment of Democratic Self – Management About Protection of the Archeological Sites in Al Jazira Canton-Syria

A. Alyhia: The Work of the Syrian Center for Cultural Heritage Protection (Idlib)

S. al-Issa Samadi: Report on the Department of Antiquities in the City of Bosra Sham

#### **Session 2 – Big Cities: The "Aleppo Case" (16:30-18:00)**

Y. Dallal: Protecting Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict

M. Fakhro: Protection Measures of Museums During the Wars, National Museum of Aleppo as a Model

Y. Kanjou: Situation and Future of Old Aleppo

M. Fiol: Seven Years of Conflict – the State of Cultural Heritage in Aleppo

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

**Session 3 – Actions Abroad: International Issues: Supporting Actions in the Field (9:00-10:30)**

- I. Sabrine, B. Varoutsikos, E. Cunliffe, L. Leckie: Protecting Heritage: The Work of Heritage for Peace and Others in Syria  
Sh. al Shbib: Les défis de la préservation du patrimoine archéologique syrien dans les zones les plus menacées: efforts locaux et soutien  
M. Novák: Report on a Summer School Project  
Ch. Ali: Patrimoine syrien: Pillage et trafic des antiquités syriennes – filières, mécanisme et contres mesures

**Session 3 – Actions Abroad: International Issues 2: Building Tools for the Post Conflict Period (11:00-12:30)**

- G. Philip: Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA): Progress Report on Work in the Middle East as of July 2017  
I. Ballouz: Syrian Heritage Archive Project. Digital Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage Between Limits and Chances  
A. Vaughn: An Update on ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives Inventory Development and the Use of Arches

**(14:00-15:00)**

- O. Nieuwenhuijse, Kh. Hiatlih, R. Haqi, A. Al-Fakhri: Focus Raqqa: Dutch-Syrian Initiatives Safeguarding Syrian Archaeological Heritage  
H. Kühne: The Deir ez-Zor Museum Inventory Project – Progress Report  
A. Eastwood, A. Bishop, S. Smith: Cultural Protection Fund Projects in Iraq and Syria

**Session 4 – Enlarging the Screen (15:00-17:00)**

- D. Bouakaze-Khan, Z. G. Unal, N. A. Munawar, C. Zoroglu: Archaeological Heritage in Conflict Zones: Perspective from Turkey  
G. Stein, A. Gallego-Lopez, M. Fisher: A Comparative Analysis of Dynamics of Cultural Heritage Destruction and Preservation Efforts in Afghanistan versus Syria/Iraq  
M. Lebeau, C. Michel: An Open Discussion on an Ethics Charter for Near Eastern Archaeology and Assyriology

## FILMS

### **New Monument Men — a documentary movie**

Syrie, les derniers remparts du patrimoine, un documentaire écrit et réalisé par Jean-Luc Raynaud

L'histoire d'une chaîne humaine composée de citoyens désarmés, pacifistes et révoltés qui sont les "Derniers Remparts" du Patrimoine de l'Humanité : ceux qui, sur le terrain, en Syrie et en Irak, au péril de leur vie, avec l'aide de ceux qui, en exil, s'engagent à leurs côtés et les soutiennent à distance, sauvent ce qui peut encore être sauvé de leur patrimoine et de leur identité.

Ces hommes-remparts, qui travaillent dans l'ombre, refusent la disparition de leur culture, qui est aussi la nôtre, car elle est le berceau de notre civilisation.

Le film honore les héros lumineux et désigne les criminels du Patrimoine de l'Humanité. Des criminels dont certaines institutions culturelles prestigieuses se font les soutiens et les complices. Car, derrière l'épouvantail Daech, se cachent d'autres crimes contre l'héritage culturel qui sont passés sous silence...

This is the story of a human chain composed of unarmed, pacifist and revolted citizens who are the "Last Protective Fortifications" of the Cultural Heritage of Humanity : those in the field, in Syria and Iraq, who risk their lives, with the help of those who, in exile, stand with them and support them at a distance. They save what can still be saved of their heritage and identity.

These human fortifications, who work in the shadows, refuse the disappearance of their culture, which is also ours, for it is the cradle of our civilization.

The film honors the luminous and heroic saviors and decries the criminal destroyers of Humanity's Heritage. Criminals of whom some prestigious cultural institutions are the supporters and accomplices.

Because, behind the ISIS scarecrow are hidden other crimes against our cultural heritage that are left in silence.

Jean Luc RAYNAUD

Here are the links to the film:

English: <https://vimeo.com/208785576>

password: 5ucddxja

French: <https://vimeo.com/203953823>

mot de passe : 5ucddxja

## NEWS

***Return to Aleppo: The story of my home during the war*** (Zahed Tajeddin and Abu Ahmed's stories form part of the *Museum of Lost Objects* on BBC World Service)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/40194794>

***Global Week for Syria.*** This festival of music, workshops and talks is in its third edition and will be held in Beirut, from June 28 till July 5, as well as in other cities around the world. *Global Week for Syria is an activity supported by the “Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage” project, a pioneering initiative funded by the European Union with the support of the Flemish Government and Austria, and in partnership with the ICCROM and ICOMOS.*

On the event’s Facebook page, you will find more photos and video excerpts from the concert:

<https://www.facebook.com/globalweekforsyria/>

The concerts, workshops and events are continuing until the 7<sup>th</sup> of July in Beirut and other Lebanese cities. You can find the full program of the events here:

<http://syrianmusiclives.com/globalweekforsyria/program/>

Please note that Global Week for Syria is taking place simultaneously in other cities around the world. The full program of international events can be found here:

<http://syrianmusiclives.com/globalweekforsyria/global-live-events-2017/>

***Syrian refugees to be trained to rebuild Palmyra and other heritage sites.*** World Monuments Fund launches scheme to teach traditional stone masonry in Jordanian town of Mafraq

<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/syrian-refugees-to-be-trained-in-traditional-stone-masonry-to-rebuild-palmyra-and-other-heritage-sit/>

***Don’t mention the War — the latest on what isn’t being reported on Syria.*** Where does the distinction lie between disinterest and self-censorship?

<https://johnmenadue.com/david-menere-dont-mention-the-war-the-latest-on-what-isnt-being-reported-on-syria/>

## FORUM

***The War in Syria: abuses of human rights and the destruction of culture*** (Tuesday 27 June 2017, The University of Sydney, Australia).

[http://sydney.edu.au/sydney\\_ideas/lectures/2017/war\\_syria\\_destruction\\_culture\\_human\\_rights\\_forum.shtml?cid=em\\_se-jun-2017](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2017/war_syria_destruction_culture_human_rights_forum.shtml?cid=em_se-jun-2017)

### *Speakers*

Dr Ross Burns was a career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs for 37 years. In that time he had a range of overseas postings and served as Ambassador to several Middle Eastern countries. He recently completed a doctorate at Macquarie University and has published two books on the history

and monuments of Syria (*Monuments of Syria* (2009); and on Damascus: *Damascus; A History* (2005). His website [www.monumentsofsyria.com](http://www.monumentsofsyria.com) contains a rich store of photos of archaeological sites in Syria.

German born Syrian-American composer and pianist Malek Jandali has spoken at Harvard, Duke and the UN headquarters in New York City. He is the founder of *Pianos for Peace*, a non-profit which aims to build peace through music and education. He was named a Great Immigrant by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 2015 and has received numerous awards for his dedication to peace and humanitarian causes.

Dr Eyal Mayroz is a Lecturer in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney. His research interests include Genocide Studies, Counter-terrorism, Human Rights and Middle East Politics. He is a member of the Genocide Prevention Advisory Network, and has authored a number of book chapters and journal articles on atrocity prevention as well as an upcoming book, *Ever Again? America's Failure to Halt Genocide, From Bosnia to Darfur*.

## EXHIBITIONS

**Berlin:** *Syria between Destruction and Preservation – The Excavation of Tell Sheikh Hamad*, curated by students of the Institutes of Near Eastern Archaeology and Prehistory of the Free University of Berlin. Exhibition with paintings by Rolf Brockschmidt at the Campus-Library of the Free University of Berlin, Fabeckstr. 23-25, 14195 Berlin, June 24 to September 03, 2017.

**California:** *The Legacy of Ancient Palmyra*, online exhibition, The Getty Centre, California, [http://www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions\\_events/exhibitions/palmyra/](http://www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions_events/exhibitions/palmyra/)

**Melbourne:** *Syria: Ancient History – Modern Conflict*, Classics and Archaeology Gallery, University Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne 28 March to 27 August 2017. <http://www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au/exhibitions/future-exhibitions/exhib-date/2017-03-28/exhib/syria-ancient-history-modern-conflict>

**Pennsylvania:** *Culture in the Crossfire: Stories from Syria and Iraq*, Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, opens 8 April 2017 to 26 November 2017. [https://www.penn.museum/information/press-room/press-release-exhibitions/1105-cultures-in-the-crossfire-stories-from-syria-and-iraq?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=post&utm\\_term=press&utm\\_content=pr](https://www.penn.museum/information/press-room/press-release-exhibitions/1105-cultures-in-the-crossfire-stories-from-syria-and-iraq?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=post&utm_term=press&utm_content=pr)

## WEBSITES

**EAMENA website and database via:**

<http://eamena.arch.ox.ac.uk/>

## RASHID

Rashid has a new website: <https://rashid-international.org/>

The new Rashid website has been professionally redesigned and now features breathtaking imagery from the length and breadth of the land of Mesopotamia, courtesy of our researchers. Be sure to check out our ['Featured Images' section](#), which offers high-resolution versions of all the photos used across the site. With our new donation form (provided by the award-winning [HelpDirect.org](https://www.helpdirect.org/)) we can now process donations via PayPal and credit card and hope you will continue to support us in protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of Iraq for the future. [Click here to visit our donation page.](#) Special thanks to the following projects and individuals for their generous contributions to the website: Professor Dr. Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, Sir Terence Clark, Professor Dr. Luca Colliva, Seán Fobbe, Professor Dr. Rafal Kolinski, Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project (LoNAP), S. Mancini, Missione Archeologica Italiana nel Kurdistan Iracheno (MAIKI), Dr. Simone Mühl, Dr. Elisa Roßberger, Layth Sahar and Francesca Simi.

RASHID International is now on [Facebook](#)! Visit our [Facebook page](#) and Like or Follow us to receive the latest news on RASHID activities and cultural heritage in Iraq delivered right into your Facebook Newsfeed. We share articles, updates and insight on recent or major developments in cultural heritage protection, analysis on international and national cultural heritage laws, photos of Iraqi heritage, relevant events and much, much more."

## SYMPOSIUM

Syria: Ancient History – Modern Conflict / سوريا: التاريخ القديم - الصراع الحديث  
Friday 11 August to Sunday 13 August 2017  
The University of Melbourne (Australia)

The symposium, *Syria: Ancient History – Modern Conflict*, expands on the exhibition, exploring the Syrian conflict and Australian archaeological research in Syria across three decades (program below):

<http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/s/1182/match/wide.aspx?sid=1182&gid=1&pgid=11479&cid=16458&ecid=16458&crd=0&calpgid=722&calcid=1383>

Friday 11 August 2017 – Forum Theatre, Arts West

### Keynote Lecture

6:00-7:00pm A/Prof Ross Burns (Macquarie) Aleppo and Palmyra – How monuments were ‘Weaponised’ in the Syrian Conflict

Saturday 12 August 2017 – Forum Theatre, Arts West

### **Session 1: Cultural Diversity – Jebel Khalid** (chair: Dr Andrew Jamieson)

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:15 Dr Heather Jackson (Melbourne) Putting it all together? Thirty years of work at Jebel-Khalid-on-the-Euphrates

10:15-10:45 Dr John Tidmarsh (Sydney) A View from the Summit: Excavations on the Acropolis at Jebel Khalid

10:45-11:15 Morning Tea (provided)

11:15-11:45 Dr Mandy Mottram (Canberra) Peopling the landscape: Archaeological Surveys in the Euphrates Hinterland

11:45-12:15 Holly Jones-Amin (Melbourne) Piecing together and stabilising the Hellenistic past: Archaeological field conservation in Syria

12:15-1:30 Lunch

### **Session 2: Conquest and Colonisation – Tell Ahmar** (chair: Dr Leah McKenzie)

1:30-2:15 Dr Guy Bunnens (Liege) Tell Ahmar: an important site on the Euphrates (paper to be read by Micehlle Glynn)

2:15-2:45 Dr Andrew Jamieson (Melbourne) Sherds of an Empire: Neo-Assyrian Ceramics from Tell Ahmar

2:45-3:15 Jeremy Smith (Heritage Victoria) Ivories, tablets, mosaics and more: Neo-Assyrian discoveries in Area C

3:15-3:30 Afternoon Tea (provided)

**Session 3: Cities on the Frontier – El-Qitar and Tell Nebi Mend** (chair: Dr Marilyn Truscott)

3:30-4:00 Dr Thomas McClellan (Maine) El-Qitar: Bronze Age fortress on the Euphrates (paper to be read by Dr Mandy Mottram)

4:00-4:30 Clifford Ogleby (Melbourne) Mapping the landscape: from El Qitar to Jebel Khalid

4:30-5:00 Dr Christopher Davey (Australian Institute of Archaeology) Excavation of Tell Nebi Mend, Syria

Sunday 13 August 2017 – Forum Theatre, Arts West

**Session 4: Community Engagement and Cultural Heritage** (chair: Dr Leah McKenzie)

9:30-9:50 Dr Marilyn Truscott (ICOMOS) Community Connections to Cultural Heritage: Continuity, Reconnection, and Recovery

9:50-10:10 Dr Andrew Jamieson (Melbourne) Engaging Community and Near Eastern Archaeological Collections: The Syrian Australian Research Collaboration Project

10:10-10:30 Dr Fiona Hill (Almanar) Syria Re-imagined

10:30-11:00 Morning Tea (provided)

**Session 5: War, Destruction, Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity** (chair: Dr Fiona Hill)

11:00-11:20 Dr Nicholas Al Jeloo (Melbourne) After the War: Effects on Syria's Cultural Diversity

11:20-11:40 Dr Mandy Mottram (Canberra) Archaeology, Heritage and Destruction: Decolonising Syria's Cultural Heritage

11:40- 12:00 Dr Antonio Gonzalez (Deakin) Digitally Mediated Iconoclasm: The Islamic State and the War on Cultural Heritage

12:00-12:30 Q&A

12:30-2:30 Lunch

2:30-3:30 Closed meeting of the Shirin Australian National Committee



## **SHIRIN Executive Board**

Frank Braemer (President), Hartmut Kühne (Vice President), Graham Philip (Treasurer) and Andrew Jamieson (Secretary)

<http://shirin-international.org/>

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Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative & Network