

s h i r i n

Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative & Network

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2015-12-04

Overview:

- Shirin was created 2014 as an initiative from the global community of scholars in the field of archaeology, art and history of the Ancient Near East. It brings together many research groups that had worked in Syria prior to 2011.

Goals and objectives:

- Shirin is to support governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to preserve and safeguard the heritage of Syria (sites, monuments & museums). It will take account of, and respond to, the needs of Syrian colleagues and authorities regardless of their political, religious or ethnic affiliation in the present conflict and in particular when the emphasis shifts from safeguarding and the documentation of damage towards restoration and reconstruction.

Types of information collected:

Shirin collects information on damage and looting resulting from the current conflict and identifies those cases in which emergency actions or cooperation may be required. This is realized by:

- Producing Site Damage Assessments
(Collecting information by the excavation directors who usually rely on local networks)
- Producing databases of the inventories of Syrian Museums
(Ongoing joint Syrian-German project, i.e. DGAM and Freie Universitaet Berlin, sponsored by the German Foreign Office: “*Digitizing the official inventory of the Museum of Deir ez-Zor.*”)
- Creating databases of sites – a Historic Environment Record
(Cooperation of *Fragile Crescent Project (FCP)*, Durham University UK, and *Projet PaléoSYR / PaléoLIB*, (CNRS, Nice and MOM Lyon) France.
- Evaluating the provenience of illicitly excavated or purchased artefacts /artwork.

(This is done by providing expertise on demand).

Target audience:

International and governmental Institutions such as:

- United Nations / UNESCO
- Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project of the UNESCO;
- ICOM-CIDOC
- Interpol
- National Intelligence Offices
- National Foreign Offices
- DGAM
- Local DGAM offices

