Heritage *for* Peace   Syria

Towards a protection of the Syrian cultural heritage:
A summary of the international responses

Volume II
(March 2014 - September 2014)

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in association with
Heritage *for* Peace

~ October 2014 ~

Introduction [1]

Since the publication of the report *Towards a protection of the Syrian cultural heritage: A summary of the international responses (March 2011 - March 2014)* (here called "April 2014 Report"), and its dissemination by Heritage for Peace at the beginning of April 2014,[2] we have received invaluable feedback from several heritage experts about new international activities.[3] These comments, along with the growth of international activities towards the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage, require the update of the April 2014 Report.

In this introduction, it is worth stressing some of the most crucial projects undertaken since March 2014. The first one is supported by the European Union (EU) and the Flemish Government: **UNESCO and other strategic partners** are creating an Observatory in Beirut for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage. The project was launched on 1 May 2014 for a period of three years (see UNESCO in this report).[4]

Also launched in March 2014 for a period of one year, **Penn Museum's Penn Cultural Heritage Center** (Penn CHC) and the **Smithsonian Institution** (SI) in cooperation with the Syrian Interim Government's Heritage Task Force, have come together to offer an emergency workshop, training and support for Syrian Museum Collections (see SI and Penn CHC in this report).[5]

Finally, the **US Department of State** (DoS) and the **American Schools of Oriental Research** (ASOR) signed an agreement on August 4, 2014 to cooperate in a project which aims at identifying immediate and future projects to assist the country's cultural heritage in danger (see ASOR in this report).[6]

Along with these three major projects, two new initiatives should be also mentioned. The Institute of Urban Design and Landscape Planning, and the Information, Communication and Media Center (ICMC/IKMZ) of the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) (Cottbus, Senftenberg), the association of "The Friends of the Old City of Aleppo", and the Secretariat of the Working Group on Economic Recovery and Development of the "Group of Friends of the Syrian People" organised a workshop called *Aleppo Archive in Exile* in January 2014. In light of

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[1] I wish to thank Emma Cunliffe for her suggestions during the draft of this report and Paul Bishop for the final proofreading.
[2] *Towards a protection of the Syrian cultural heritage: A summary of the international responses (March 2011 - March 2014),* by Silvia Perini, with Emma Cunliffe, in association with Heritage for Peace, available at http://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Towards-a-protection-of-the-Syrian-cultural-heritage.pdf
[3] These comments are helping us in expanding our knowledge of the activities undertaken by international bodies and organisations toward the protection and the conservation of the Syria's tangible cultural heritage. The authors of this report, together with Heritage for Peace, wish to thank all the people who have emailed about their initiatives. In addition, they strongly encourage previous and new groups and organisations to work in cooperation, sharing information and avoid duplications.
[4] http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1135/
[5] http://www.penn.museum/press-releases/1085-emergency-support-for-syria-s-cultural-heritage.html
[6] http://www.asor.org/news/2014/08/SHI-press-release.html

the recent damage to Aleppo's historical buildings, this workshop aimed to discuss strategies for the preservation of the city urban archive and the update of these into digital form (see Brandenburgische Technische Universität (BTU), Friends of the Old City of Aleppo (FOCA), Group of Friends of the Syrian People (FOSP), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The second initiative was born in response to a meeting held at the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), held in Basel (Switzerland) from the 9th to 13th June, 2014. Here archaeologists gathered in an informal meeting called *The State of the Heritage of Syria in the Times of Civil War*, which intended to more concretely define the possible role of the international archaeological community of scholars in safeguarding the Syrian cultural heritage. At the end of this workshop, the attendants charged Prof Marc Lebeau with the mandate of an exploratory coordination role in establishing a Committee intended to represent the global community of scholars. This new initiative is called *Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative and Network* (SHIRĪN).

This update follows the same configuration of the April 2014 Report. International responses are presented in alphabetical order according to the name of the organisations or stakeholders involved. If there is no alteration, additional information or activity updating, groups/organisations already presented in the April 2014 Report have not been re-listed in this update. Of course, this does not mean that such groups are not active. However, they appear in the concluding table at the end of this contribution (Table 1). The organisations that have been newly founded specifically to help the protection of the Syrian cultural heritage are characterised by an asterisk (*) located after the name. New organisations not listed in the April 2014 Report have been characterised in this report by a caret (^) located after the name.

Bibliographical references and press articles are not included in this report, nor are actions and initiatives undertaken towards the protection of the Syrian intangible heritage.

Groups working to protect Syria's Archaeological Heritage

(The star indicates groups that were founded as a response to the crisis. The caret indicates the new groups/organisations that were not listed in the April 2014 Report)

Arab British Centre (ABC)^
- *Location and date founded*: England and Wales (UK), 1975.
  - Promoting interest in Syrian heritage and culture: since their founding.
- *Description*: ABC is a non-political, non-religious, independent, UK registered charity that works to improve the British public's understanding of the Arab world. From 11th to 16th of June 2014, ABC organised a cultural event called "Syria Speaks. Art and Culture from the Frontline", which gathered the work of over fifty artists and writers who are challenging the culture of violence in Syria.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.arabbritishcentre.org.uk/
  Project: http://www.arabbritishcentre.org.uk/event/syria-speaks-london-bristol-oxford-liverpool-bradford-durham/

The American School of Oriental Research (ASOR)
(For ASOR's basic information, see April 2014 report).
- *Description*: On the 4th August 2014, ASOR entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State (DoS) to monitor cultural heritage in Syria. The project, called the "Syrian Heritage Initiative" (SHI), aims to document the current condition of historical and archaeological sites in Syria and assess their preservation, protection and future restoration. It is an international collaboration between teams of specialists with professional connections to leading academic and cultural institutions in Syria, the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as groups of concerned citizens in Syria. As part of this, the group produces weekly project reports, including new discoveries, research, and events, which they verify and place in the context of current events (a). SHI is holding a symposium on November 23rd, 2014 in conjunction with ASOR's Annual Meeting in San Diego, California (b). ASOR is also running a project called "Heritage Monitor", which consists of a website that enable people to submit anonymous reports on the destruction of cultural heritage (c).
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.asor.org or http://www.asor.org/am/
  Project page: http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org/
  a) http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org/summaries/
  b) http://www.asor.org/news/2014/10/shi-symposium.html
  c) http://www.heritagemonitor.com/en

Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology (APSA)*
(For the Association's basic information, see April 2014 report).

- *Description:* APSA continues to document and update about the damage to Syria' heritage on their website, Facebook page and YouTube account. In collaboration with the Institut du Monde Arabe and the Louvre Museum, APSA organised a conference titled *Le patrimoine syrien en péril* on 30th April in Paris to raise awareness on the Syrian heritage in danger.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.apsa2011.com/index.php/fr/
  Projects: http://www.imarabe.org/node/13075. All talks are available on YouTube, see for example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUPyy1A-Y0I

Brandenburgische Technische Universität (BTU)^, Friends of the Old City of Aleppo (FOCA)^*, Group of Friends of the Syrian People (Working Group on Economy Recovery and Development) (FOSP)^, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)^

- *Location and date founded*: BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg (Germany), 2014.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since January 2014.
- *Description*: Four different bodies organised a workshop called "Aleppo Archive in Exile" organised at the BTU in January 2014 to discuss conservation, refurbishment and digitally updating the existing Old City of Aleppo historic documents (i.e. cadastral maps), as well as the creation of a new cadastre of damage, and measures for the renewal of the ancient monuments in the Old City. This project includes: The Urban Historic Archive and Documentation Center for Aleppo (by Franziska Laue and Anette Gangler) (a); A Schematic Approach to Third World's "Historic Cities" (by Stefano Bianca) (b); and The Rehabilitation of the Old City of Aleppo (by Kamal Bitar) (c). In addition, more partners are collaborating with germane initiatives, namely: The "Syrian Heritage Archive Project" (SYRHER), Museum of Islamic Art Berlin (MIK) - Issam Ballouz and the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) - Franziska Bloch (d) (see also DAI); Preservation, restoration and conservation of two convolutes of photographs rescued from the archive of the National Museum in Aleppo, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Technik Berlin (HTW) - Kay Kohlmeyer; Digital Urban Historic Archive of Aleppo, Arab Regional Center for World Heritage (ARC-WH) - Kamal Bitar (e); Collaboration with universities, local Syrian architects, engineers and local activists, University of Aleppo / Local Syrian Architects and Engineers - Fatina Kourdi; and Analyses of reconstruction of Aleppo's Old City, Politecnico di Bari, Landscape Architecture DICAR, Italy - Annalinda Neglia.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.tu-cottbus.de/fakultaet2/de/stadt-und-regionalplanung/home/aktuelles/meldung.html?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=2038&cHash=c771db3d919a4a72c4753070d863154f
  Projects – Aleppo Archive in Exile:
  a) - c):
  http://architettura.poliba.it/News/workshop/Program_Workshop_Aleppo_Archive_in_Exile__17_01_2014.pdf

d) http://www.dainst.org/en/project/syrian-heritage-archive-project?ft=all
e) http://arcwh.org/program-2014

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).
- *Description*: In addition to its previous activities (see April 2014 Report), and its support of the "Aleppo Archives in Exile Project" (see BTU and partners), the DAI in cooperation with the Foreign Office as of April 2014 has launched a series of lectures on the topic of "Syrien – eine bedrohte Kulturlandschaft" (a). Moreover, some updates are available referring to the Syrian Heritage Archive Project (SYRHER), a project undertaken by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and the Museum für Islamische Kunst (MIK), and funded by the German Foreign Ministry (see also April 2014 Report). SYRHER, which aims to create a digital record of Syria's monuments and sites, has been divided into two phases: Phase 1, from October 2013 to April 2014; and Phase 2, from September 2014 to February 2015. At the end of Phase 1, over 100.000 objects have been digitised and over 500 places have been created in the Gazetteer (b). [7]
Information and contact:
Projects:
a) https://www.facebook.com/events/1419741094959614/?ref=22
b) http://syrian-heritage.org/joomla/en/component/k2/item/90-creating-a-digital-cultural-heritage-register-for-syria-the-syrian-heritage-archive-project
https://gazetteer.dainst.org/app/#!/show/2086499
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Syrher.ISL
YouTube Page: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaRNHbshlUY

Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities, University of Aleppo^
- *Location and date founded*: Aleppo (Syria), 1966.
  - *Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage*: since 2012.
- *Description*: the students of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Aleppo have created a group on Facebook which aims to discuss the current status of the city.
- *Team*: Syrian.
- *Information and contact*:
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/156078757789429/

Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM)
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).
- *Description*: The DGAM is continuing its efforts to preserve and protect the country's cultural heritage. Along with the projects already listed in the April 2014 Report, the DGAM met with the Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut in March to discuss plans to try and protect Syrian heritage, including the action plan of the UNESCO safeguarding project (See UNESCO). According to the timetable agreed upon, March 2014 was the start of the project (a). Furthermore, the DGAM has recently made available on its

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[7] I wish to thank Issam Ballouz (member of the Syrian Heritage Archive Project) for sharing this information.

website: a statement "Syrian Cultural Heritage-Three and a Half Years of Suffering" on the condition of the country's cultural heritage after three years of conflict at the end of July (b); two updates of site damages from March 2014 to September 2014 (c), which follows the initial damage assessment to archaeological sites from March 2011 to March 2013 that was published in March 2014. In addition, DGAM representatives have been involved in many international conferences and seminars, such as: in Italy, from the 4th – 8th of May, at the La Sapienza University of Rome (d); in France, at the UNESCO experts meeting in Paris 26-28 May 2014 (e); and in Italy again, at the Rimini Meeting, in August 2014 (f). On the 21st of May at the National Museum in Damascus, DGAM organised a workshop on "Standards of Preservation and Archaeological Registration of Syrian Ancient Monuments" (g). Also in May 2014, DGAM experts conducted a technical field inspection to define action plan for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Crac des Chevaliers, badly damaged during fighting (h). In July 2014, the Directorate of Scientific and Restoration Laboratories at the DGAM launched a project titled "Together We Restore Syria's Antiquities", which aims at training students of the University of Damascus in restoration work. A national team of restoration experts is responsible for the training (i). Most recently, they have launched a new project to provide e-documentation of sites which is to include information on the scientific content, manuscripts, images, the history of the sites, excavations, historical documentation, renovation projects of buildings, and the date of registering archaeological sites in the national list of World Heritage (j). As of August 2014, 16 sites had been completed, with 100 more scheduled to be uploaded by the end of 2014. In August 2014, the DGAM published an inventory of the damage to the buildings in the old city of Damascus (k). The DGAM had recently announced that courses to train personnel in the protection of cultural heritage will begin in Cairo at the end of September 2014 with the support of UNESCO and the ICCROM-ATHAR Centre (l).

- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://dgam.gov.sy/
  Projects:
  a) For the English page see: http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1165, although more information is available on the Arabic page here: http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=177&id=1168
  b) http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1348
  c) http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1342; http://dgam.gov.sy/archive/docs/File/downloads/damage_assessment_table%20july_september%20en.pdf
  d) http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1255
  e) http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1256
  f) http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1354
  g) http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1297
  h) http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1307
  i) http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=5920
  j) http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=10080
  k) http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1369
  l) http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1429

Friends of Maaloula Association (FMA)*^

- *Location and date founded*: Germany, 2013.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2013.
- *Description*: FMA is a group of people interested in the preservation of the Aramaic culture and language of the ancient city of Maaloula. FMA's projects include: raising awareness of the destruction of this city through media (a); collecting money to donate to the refugees from Maaloula (b), and in collaboration with the Syrian Tourism Ministry, FMA organised a photographic exhibition on Syrian heritage sites, showing them before and after they had been vandalised and/or destroyed. The exhibition, entitled "Syrian Archaeological Treasures", was organised as part of the Syrian Tourism Day in Madrid during July 2014 (c).
- *Team*: Syrian and German.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.rahim.eu/maaloula/aboutus.html
  Projects:
  a) http://rahim.eu/maaloula/Bilder/
  b) http://www.rahim.eu/maaloula/donations.html
  c) http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=8971; http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=5331

Gulfsands Urkesh Exploration Fund, International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies (IIMAS), and Cotsen Institute of Archaeology (UCLA)^

- *Location and date founded*: Syria/California, 2010.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2012.
- *Description*: The Gulfsands Urkesh Exploration Fund is a collaboration between Gulfsands Petroleum Plc, IIMAS and UCLA (Los Angeles, California). It provides funding to ensure continuity for the excavation and conservation of the site of Urkesh/Tell Mozan (Northeast Syria). This project is directed by Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati from the UCLA. Since 2012, member of the Gulfsands Urkesh Project have been involved in a site preservation program called "In the Eye of the Storm", which is one of the few archaeological mission activities still undertaken in Syria. This preservation program aims to document, monitor, and preserve the ancient archaeological site, working in collaboration with local stakeholders at the site.
- *Team*: Syrian and American.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.urkesh.org/gulfsands/gulfsands_home.htm; http://128.97.6.202/urkesh-park/Eye.html
  Project: http://128.97.6.202/urkesh-park/2014/Urkesh%20Folio%202012-13.pdf

Heritage for Peace (HfP)*
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).

- *Description*: HfP have continued their programs of activities, which includes: in collaboration with the Spanish National Research Council and the European Institute of the Mediterranean in Barcelona, HfP organised a symposium, "Lessons learned to safeguard cultural heritage in conflict situations", on 23rd and 24th April 2014, in Santander,

Barcelona (see also April 2014 Report). DGAM representatives were invited to participate, as well as experts from Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The outcomes of this important symposium are available at the HfP's website (a); sending bi-weekly updates to interested parties about the damage to Syria's heritage through the HfP Damage Mailing List (b); designing a Task Force on Antiquities and Museums with funding from The Dutch Government (c); training damage assessment for Task Force staff; and training and conservation program for the Aleppo Museum with a grant from the Honor Frost Foundation (d).

- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.heritageforpeace.org/
  Projects:
  a) The program and speakers are available here: http://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Pamflet-ProgramHeritageandConflict_lismallpdf.com_.pdf; and the outcomes are available here: http://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Santander-Statement-and-Outcomes.pdf
  b) Interested readers can subscribe to the email newsletter here - http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/subscribe-to-receive-updates-on-damage-to-syrias-heritage/; or view old newsletters here - http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/
  c)http://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Task-Force-Press-Release-24-June.pdf
  d) http://honorfrostfoundation.org/index.php/dr-emma-cunliffe-conserving-the-maritime-heritage-of-syria/

International Council of Museums (ICOM)
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).
- *Description*: Along with the English and French "Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk", it has been published also in German (a) and Arabic (b).
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://icom.museum/
  Projects:
  a) http://icom.museum/uploads/media/RL_SYRIE_ICOM_DE.pdf
  b) http://icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/images/Redlists/Syria/140612_RLS_SYRIE_ICOM_AR.pdf

International Association for Assyriology (IAA)^
- *Location and date founded*: London, 2013.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: The main goals of IAA are "to serve as a platform for scholars working in Cuneiform Studies, and Near Eastern Archaeology" and "to discuss all matters concerning these fields". Moreover, in August 2014, IAA has declared through a statement its concern

on the current situation affecting damages and distruction of the archaeological heritage in both Syria and Iraq.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://iaassyriology.org/
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MarShiprim
  Project: http://iaassyriology.org/wp-content/uploads/IAA-English.pdf

Ila Souria (IS)*^
- *Location and date founded*: Paris (France), 2013.
  - *Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage*: since 2013.
- *Description*: IS is an association whose aim is to organise events for the rebuilding of Syria, such as seminars, workshops, exhibitions, publications and the creation of a Syrian Popular University.
- *Team*: Franco-Syrian.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.ilasouria.org/en/
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ila.souria?fref=ts
  YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/user/ilasouria
  Project: http://www.ilasouria.org/en/

Institut du Monde Arabe (Arab World Institute) (IMA)^
- *Location and date founded*: Paris, 1980.
  - *Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage*: since 2013.
- *Description*: In collaboration with the Louvre Museum, on the 30 April 2014, IMA organised a conference titled "Syrian Heritage in Danger", in order to discuss actions being undertaken to protect the archaeological heritage in peril.
- *Team*: French.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.imarabe.org/
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/institutdumondearabe
  Project: http://www.imarabe.org/colloque/le-patrimoine-syrien-en-peril

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) and Italian Priorità Cultura (IPC)
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).
- *Description*: The campaign "The forgotten victim in Syria: The Cultural Heritage", launched an exhibition in Rome titled "Syria: Splendors and Dramas", which ran from 20 June to 31 August 2014.
- *Information and contact*:
  Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/303075116521470/

Press Release:
http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/culture/2014/06/19/exhibitions-syrias-cradle-of-civilization-being-destroyed_aaeaae39-1cee-46f7-bd2c-ad97a1af9249.html?idPhoto=1

Monuments of Syria (MoS)^
- *Location and date founded*: Australia. The first edition of the book was printed in 1992.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2011.
- *Description*: Monuments of Syria is the title of a book published by Ross Burns in 1992. It is now on its 3rd edition and in 2011 a website was created by the author to promote Syria's heritage. In particular, he created a page to track damage occurring to heritage during the conflict. Damages updates are available also as a pdf document.
- *Team*: Australian.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://monumentsofsyria.com/
  Project: http://monumentsofsyria.com/syria-conflict/; http://monumentsofsyria.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Syria-damage-report-7-Sep-2014.pdf

National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (a.k.a Etilaf) and Ministry of Culture and Family Affairs for the Syrian Interim Government (MCFA)
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).
- *Location and date founded*: Istanbul (Turkey), March 2013.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2013.
- *Description*: The Syrian Interim Government is an alternative government based out of Turkey, which has been formed by the opposition umbrella group, the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces. Etilaf and the Syrian Interim Government have been in the process of establishing a Heritage Task Force since June 2014 in order to address the protection and safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage. The creation of the Heritage Task Force was chaired by Dr Amr Al Azm, an associate professor of Middle East history and anthropology at Shawnee State. Part of the establishment of the Heritage Task Force included a training program called a training program called "Emergency Protection, Packing, and Crating for Syrian Collections", undertaken by museum curators, heritage experts, and other members of civil society. The training was facilitated by representatives from the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Penn Cultural Heritage Center (see also SI and Penn CHC).
- *Team*: Syrian.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.syriaig.org/en/index.php
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SyrianInterimGovernment
  Project: http://www.syriaig.org/en/index.php/content-category-2/1741-syrian-interim-government-establishes-heritage-task-force-to-protect-syrian-culture-2;
  http://www.etilaf.us/antiq_training

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NRICP)^
- *Location and date founded*: Tokyo (Japan), 1930.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2013.
- *Description*: The NRICP focuses on international cultural properties and methods for their preservation, offering training in preservation of cultural properties, cooperating in international projects for the preservation of cultural properties. In October 2013, the NRICP hosted a symposium on "Syria's Recovery and Its Cultural Heritage", with the backing of the Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology. Presentations were given by several experts, who discussed the following topics: current state and future direction of the Syrian civil war; Syria's history and cultural heritage; extent of destruction of cultural heritage by the Syrian civil War; and restoration of cultural heritage and national recovery. A panel discussion followed the presentations, where the topic of "What Should Be Done to Restore Syria's Cultural Heritage Now and in the Future" was actively discussed.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.tobunken.go.jp/index_e.html
  Project: http://www.tobunken.go.jp/english/katudo/201310-e.html

Rimini Meeting: Meeting per l'amicizia fra i popoli / Meeting of Friendship Among People (RM)^
- *Location and date founded*: Italy, 1980.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: Each year a meeting is held in Rimini, an encounter among persons of different faiths and cultures. The 2014 meeting had the theme "To the Ends of the Earth and of Existence. Destiny Has Not Left Man Alone", and was held on August 24-30th. As part of this, Prof Giorgio Buccellati and Prof Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati have organised a broad program on Syrian archaeology, including an exhibition entitled: "From the Depth of Time: Communication and Community in Ancient Syria". A plenary session was devoted to the current situation in Syria, and a technical meeting was held with Prof Giorgio Buccellati and Prof Paolo Matthiae as chairs, in which, besides the Director General, the regional Directors of Antiquities from Aleppo, Idlib and Qamishli were present.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Conference website: http://www.meetingrimini.org/eng/
  Conference Plenary addresses: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6evG4jzNQfU#t=3156

Saadeh Cultural Foundation (SCF)^
- *Location and date founded*: Beirut (Lebanon), 1999.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: The SCF is involved in stopping the illicit trade of Syrian archaeological objects. In particular, in March 2014 they raised international awareness about the sale of a looted black basalt royal stele of Adad Nerari III of Assyria at Bonhams (London).
- *Team*: Arabic.

- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://saadehcf.org/Home.aspx
  Project: http://saadehcf.org/NewsDetails.aspx?Id=35;
  http://saadehcf.org/Modules/LatestNews/PdfUpload/852616171Letter%20Auction%20Eng.pdf

Saving Antiquities for Everyone (SAFE)
(For the organisation's basic information, see April 2014 Report).
- *Description*: SAFE has recently called for a moratorium on Syrian antiquities illicit traded.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.savingantiquities.org/
  Project: http://www.savingantiquities.org/heritage-crisis-syria-call-temporary-moratorium-trade/; http://www.savingantiquities.org/uk-adopts-resolution-prohibiting-import-antiquities-syria/

Smithsonian Institution (SI)^ and Penn Cultural Heritage Center (Penn CHC)
(For the Penn CHC basic information, see April 2014 Report. The information here only refers to the SI).
- *Location and date founded*: Washington D.C. (USA), 1846.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: The SI is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, administered by the United States government. In collaboration with Penn CHC, from 2014 the SI has been working towards the protection of the Syrian Cultural Heritage. In particular, SI and Penn CHC worked together in July 2014 to create an emergency workshop, training, and support for Syrian museum collections. The organizations held a three-day training program, "Emergency Care for Syrian Museum Collections," which focused on safeguarding high-risk collections. The training was funded by the Smithsonian and the J.M. Kaplan Fund.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.si.edu/
  Project: http://www.penn.museum/press-releases/1085-emergency-support-for-syria-s-cultural-heritage.html

Syria is Here Group*^
- *Location and date founded*: Damascus (Syria), 2013.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2013.
- *Description*: Syria is Here Group is a media organisation that aims to deliver news and events about the various political, cultural and social events in Syria.
- *Team*: Syrian.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://syriaishere.com/ar/index.html
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SyriaIsHere.sy

Syrian Association for the Preservation of Archaeology and Heritage (SAPAH)*^
- *Location and date founded*: Syria, 2013.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2013.
- *Description*: SAPAH is an independent, non-governmental organisation which supports the protection of the Syrian heritage.
- *Team*: Syrian.
- *Information and contact*:
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/psahrteam/timeline

Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative and Network (SHĪRIN)*^
- *Location and date founded*: Basel (Switzerland), June 2014.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: At the 9th ICAANE held in Basel in June 2014, the conference organisers along with SGOA (see below) scheduled a workshop titled "The State of the Heritage of Syria in the Times of Civil War", which intended to raise awareness of the role of the archaeological community in protection Syria's heritage. At the end of this workshop, the attendants suggested Prof Marc Lebeau as exploratory coordinator in forming an international committee of archaeologists.
- *Team*: International (mainly archaeologists).
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: under construction.

Syrian Heritage Pages (SHP)*^
- *Location and date founded*: Syria, June 2014.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: SHP is a Facebook group that aims to raise awareness on the status of the Syrian heritage, networking information from the many other Facebook groups.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Syrian-heritage-pages/373933192748748?sk=timeline

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Orientalische Altertumswissenschaft - Swiss Society for Ancient Near Eastern Studies (SGOA)^
- *Location and date founded*: Switzerland, late 80s.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: SGOA coordinates and supports the study of Ancient Near Eastern cultures at Swiss universities. SGOA funded the workshop "The State of the Heritage of Syria in the Times of Civil War" held at the 9th ICAANE in Basel in June 2014 (see also SHĪRIN).
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and Contact*:
  Website: http://sgoa.ch/en/

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient - French Society for Oriental Christians (SOSCO)^
- *Location and date founded*: France, 2013.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: The NGO organization works to projects promoting fellowship with Christians of the East. The society hopes to rebuild the St George Church in Maaloula thanks to donations.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and Contact*:
  Website: http://www.soschretiensdorient.fr/
  Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/soschretiensdorient/info
  Project: http://www.soschretiensdorient.fr/une-eglise-pour-maaloula/;
  http://www.soschretiensdorient.fr/2014/09/les-travaux-de-reparation-finances-par-sos-chretiens-dorient-ont-commence-a-leglise-saint-georges-de-maaloula-syrie/

The National Archives (TNA)^
- *Location and date founded*: London, 2003.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: The National Archives is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice of the United Kingdom. Publishing all UK legislation is a core part of the remit of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, The National Archives, and the Office of the Queen's Printer for Scotland. In July 2014, TNA made a law to control throughout the EU the import, export, transfer, or provision of brokering services for the import, export or transfer of Syrian cultural property, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect they have been removed illegally or without the consent of their owner: The Export Control (Syria Sanctions) (Amendment) Order 2014. It came into force in August 2014.
- *Team*: International.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/
  Project: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1896/contents/made
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1896/pdfs/uksi_20141896_en.pdf
  http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:335:0050:0051:EN:PDF

The Syria Campaign (TSC)*^
- *Location and date founded*: Worldwide, 2014.
  - Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage: since 2014.
- *Description*: The Syria Campaign is a non-profit organisation supported by a small team of campaigners skilled in the emerging field. The team comes from Avaaz, Greenpeace, Oxfam, Christian Aid and GetUp and is based in Beirut, London and New York. TSC is currently running a petition addressed to the UN to ban the international trade of Syrian antiquities.
- *Team*: International.

- *Information and contact*:
  Website: https://thesyriacampaign.org/
  Project: https://diary.thesyriacampaign.org/un-ban-the-trade-in-syrian-antiquities/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
(For UNESCO basic information, see April 2014 Report).

- *Description*: UNESCO is continuing to work towards the protection of the Syrian cultural heritage, uploading updates on the situation on the UNESCO Syria page "Safeguarding Syrian Cultural Heritage" (a). Moreover, UNESCO received a 2.5 million euro grant for the project "Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage" of the European Union, which UNESCO's Office in Beirut has been implementing since early March 2014 (b). On behalf of the Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties Section of UNESCO, a statement was sent to the major auction houses and museums worldwide to inform them of the joint statement made by Mr Ban Ki-moon, Ms Irina Bokova and Mr Lakhdar Brahimi on 12 March 2014 "The Destruction of the Cultural Heritage of Syria Must Stop" (c). The "Emergency Safeguarding Project" was continued through the co-ordination of an international meeting of experts in Paris from 26 - 28 May, entitled Rallying the International Community to Safeguard Syria's Cultural Heritage (d). At this meeting they announced their intention to establish an observatory in Beirut (Lebanon) to monitor and assess the state of buildings, artefacts and intangible cultural heritage; to combat illicit trafficking; and to collect information to restore heritage once the fighting is over. UNESCO is working on this project in collaboration with its strategic partners (i.e. cultural heritage specialists from Syria and the Syrian diaspora, representatives of Syrian NGOs, archaeologists, members of UNESCO institutional partners Interpol, the International Council of Monuments and sites (ICOMOS), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the World Customs Organization or the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), as well as academics from universities in the Middle East and beyond) (e). Finally, a report on the ICT tools used by the DGAM to protect their heritage was also presented during this conference (f).
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://en.unesco.org/
  Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/unesco?fref=ts
  Projects:
  a) http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/
  b) http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/international-initiatives/emergency-safeguarding-of-syria-heritage
  c) http://icomnewzealand.wordpress.com/2014/05/18/fwd-un-and-unesco-concerns-about-looted-syrian-cultural-property-letters-sent-to-major-museums-and-auction-houses%E2%80%8F/; and http://icomnewzealand.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/statement-en.pdf
  d) http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/international-initiatives/emergency-safeguarding-of-syria-heritage

e) http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1135/;
http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_to_create_an_observatory_for_the_safeguarding_of_syrias_cultural_heritage/#.U99ejfldX-Q
f) http://www.arsheef.org/dgam/it_dept/unesco_experts_meeting_2014.pdf

US Department of State (DoS)^

- *Location and date founded*: USA, 1789.
  - *Promoting the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage*: since 2013.
- *Description*: DoS is the United States' federal executive department responsible for international relations of the United States. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US Department of State is committed to helping Syrians preserve their heritage through a program called Syria Cultural Heritage Initiative, which includes: close monitoring of looting at archaeological sites through satellite images (a); compiling a map and inventory of more than 1,000 major cultural heritage sites (b), and in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM), supporting the production of the Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk (see ICOM) (c). Moreover, on 4th August 2014, DoS granted the American School of Oriental Research (ASOR) and partners a USD 600,000 grant to document the current condition of historical and archaeological sites in Syria and assess their preservation, protection and future restoration (d) (see ASOR). On the 22 September 2014, DoS together with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, hold a conference titled "Heritage in Peril: Syria and Iraq", aimed to save historic and cultural sites in Iraq and Syria. Among the speakers, Michael Danti, co-director of the American School of Oriental Research (ASOR) Syrian Heritage Initiative, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO (e).
- *Team*: American.
- *Information and contact*:
  Website: http://www.state.gov
  Projects:
  a) http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/syria-cultural-heritage-initiative/imagery-archaeological-site-looting
  b) http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/syria-cultural-heritage-initiative/heritage-sites-inventory
  c) http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/syria-cultural-heritage-initiative/red-list
  d) http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/230214.htm;
  http://www.asor.org/news/2014/08/SHI-press-release.html
  e) http://www.dvidshub.net/video/362143/us-secretary-state-john-kerry-delivers-remarks-syrian-art#.VCGzSo0eUay; http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/09/231992.htm;
  http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/09/231912.htm

Conclusions

Along with the 38 organisations and groups involved in the protection and safeguarding of the Syrian archaeological heritage listed in the April 2014 Report, this update has identified new initiatives of well-known organisations (in blue in Table 1), and new organisations (in red in Table 1). (For the organisation's name please see the List of Abbreviations at the end of this report).

Table 1. Summary of the data presented in the April 2014 Report along with the September 2014 updates.

ID	Name	Visibility	Type of action
1	AA	social media	online discussion/updates
2	AAAS	website	maps and satellites images
3	ABC	webpage	books
4	AF	website	petition
5	AIA	social media, website	conferences, statements
6	ANCBS&ICBS	website	online discussion and updates, press releases, statements
7	APSA	social media, website	conferences, online discussion/updates, reports
8	ARCH	website	online discussion/updates, training
9	ARCHAEOLOGIK	social media	books, online discussion/updates
10	ASN	social media	online discussion/updates
11	ASOR	website	illicit trafficking, lectures, maps&satellite images, restorations (Syria Cultural Heritage Initiative)
12	BANEA	social media, website	petitions, press releases
13	BTU	webpage	electronic database, workshops (Aleppo Archive in Exile)
14	CHS	website	electronic database, maps

ID	Name	Visibility	Type of action
15	CiD	website	online discussion/updates
16	DA	social media	online discussion/updates
17	DAA	social media	online discussion/updates, restoration project
18	DAI	website	conferences, electronic database, lectures, maps&satellite images, workshops (Aleppo Archive in Exile and Syrian Heritage Archive Project)
19	DGAM	website	articles, books, electronic database, maps&satellite images, new draft law, online discussion/updates, press releases, restorations, training, workshops
20	DIASH	social media	online discussion/updates
21	DoS	website	awards, conferences, maps&satellite images, restorations, training (Syria Cultural Heritage Initiative)
22	ECA	website	electronic database, illicit trafficking, maps&satellite images (Syria Cultural Heritage Initiative)
23	EPSH	social media	online discussion/updates
24	ETILAF	social media	online discussion/updates, training
25	FMA	social media, website	exhibitions, online discussion/updates, preservation of ancient language, raise money
26	FOCA	n/a	(Aleppo Archive in Exile)
27	FOSP	webpage	conferences (Aleppo Archive in Exile)
28	GHF	social media, website	maps, online discussion/updates
29	GIZ	website	(Aleppo Archive in Exile)
30	GUP	webpage	articles, restorations

ID	Name	Visibility	Type of action
31	HfP	website	conferences, online discussion/updates, press releases, raise money, report, training, workshops
32	IAA	website	statements
33	ICCROM	website	online discussion/updates, statements, training
34	ICCROM & ATHAR	website	online discussion/updates, statements, training
35	ICD&IPC	website	award, exhibitions, press releases
36	ICOM	website	illicit trafficking
37	ICOMOS	website	press releases, training, workshops
38	ICORP	website	conferences, online discussion/updates, statements
39	ICPO	website	illicit trafficking
40	IMA	website	conferences, exhibitions
41	IS	social media, website	articles, conferences, online discussion/updates
42	ISESCO	website	statements
43	LPASD	social media, website	articles, interviews, online discussion/updates
44	MCFA	website	training
45	MoS	website	online discussion/updates, report
46	NRICP	website	lectures
47	OHWB	website	exhibitions, statements
48	Penn CHC	website	electronic database, maps&satellite images, training
49	RM	website	conferences, workshops
50	ROCA	social media	online discussion/updates

ID	Name	Visibility	Type of action
51	SAFE	social media, website	online discussion/updates
52	SAPAH	social media	online discussion/updates
53	SAPHAL	n/a	restoration project
54	SCF	website	illicit trafficking, press releases
55	SGOA	website	workshop
56	SHIRIN	n/a	committee and networking
57	SHP	social media	online discussion/updates
58	SI	website	electronic database, maps&satellite images, training
59	SiHG	social media	articles, online discussion/updates
60	SMH	social media, website	online discussion/updates, petitions
61	SOSCO	social media, website	restoration project
62	TNA	website	illicit trafficking, new draft law
63	TSC	webpage	illicit trafficking, petitions
64	UN	website	press releases
65	UNESCO	website	committee and networking, creation of an observatory outside Syria, electronic database, illicit trafficking, online discussion/updates, petitions, press releases, statements, training, workshops
66	WMF	website	articles, maps, online discussion/updates, petitions, raise money

Within the 66 bodies listed in this table:
- 38 are the organisation already identified in the April 2014 Report (in black in Table 1)
- 28 new organisations have been established since March 2014 (in red in Table 1), and

- 10 out of the 38 organisations listed in the April 2014 Report have developed new projects and/or initiatives (in blue in Table 1).
- A total of 66 organisations is currently involved in the protection of the Syrian cultural heritage as of end of September 2014.[8]

The three most important collaboration projects (i.e. UNESCO and partners; Penn CHC and SI; and ASOR) involved cooperation amongst well-known international heritage organisations, which are joining their efforts to work together toward the protection and conservation of the Syrian cultural heritage. If compared with the April 2014 Report, one can notice that restoration and rehabilitation projects, as well as fighting against illicit trafficking of archaeological material are increasing. This is encouraging news, which stresses the desire of the international community to look ahead preserving Syrian identity.

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[8] As for the previous report, the numbers shown in Table 1 are provisional and they only refer to the groups whose information is available on the internet.

List of Abbreviations

AA	Aleppo Archaeology
AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science
ABC	Arab British Centre
AF	Agenzia Fides
AIA	American Institute of Archaeology
ANCBS&ICBS	Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield&International Committee of the Blue Shield
APSA	Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology (or Protect Syrian Archaeology)
ARCH	Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage
ARCHEOLOGIK	Archaeologik
ASN	Archaeology in Syria NETWORK
ASOR	American School of Oriental Research
BANEA	British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology
BTU	Brandenburgische Technische Universität
CHS	Cultural Heritage in Syria in the current conflict
CiD	Culture in Development
DA	Department of Archaeology_Aleppo
DAA	Division of Antiquities of the Free Council of Aleppo (or Département de la Ville d'Alep Libre)
DAI	Deutsches Archäologisches Institut & MIA
DGAM	Directorate-General of Antiquities & Museums
DIASH	Documenting the Injured Archaeological Sites of Homs
DoS	US Department of State
ECA	Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
EPSH	Eyes to protect Syrian Heritage
ETILAF	National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces
FMA	Friends of Maaloula Association
FOCA	Friends of the Old City of Aleppo
FOSP	Group of Friends of the Syrian People
GHF	Global Heritage Fund
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GUP	Gulfsands/Urkesh Project
HfP	Heritage for Peace
IAA	International Association for Assyriology
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

ICCROM&ATHAR	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property & Architectural-Archaeological Tangible Heritage in the Arab Region
ICD&IPC	Institute for Cultural Diplomacy & Italian Priorità Cultura
ICOM	International Council of Museums
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
ICORP	International Committee on Risk Preparedness
ICPO	INTERPOL - International Criminal Police Organization
IMA	Istitut du Monde Arabe (Arab World Institute)
IS	Ila Souria
ISESCO	Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
LPASD	Le patrimoine archéologique syrien en danger (or The Syrian Archaeological Heritage in Danger)
MCFA	Ministry of Culture and Family Affairs for the Syrian Interim Government
MIK	Museum für Islamische Kunst (Museum of Islamic Art)
MoS	Monuments of Syria
NRICP	National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
OHWB	Oriental Heritage Without Borders
Penn CHC	Penn Cultural Heritage Center
ROCA	Rescue the Old City of Aleppo
SAFE	Saving Antiquities for Everyone
SAPAH	Syrian Association for the Preservation of Archaeology and Heritage
SAPHAL	Syrian Association for Preserving Heritage and Ancient Landmarks
SCF	Saadeh Cultural Foundation
SGOA	Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Orientalische Altertumswissenschaft
SHIRIN	Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative and Network
SHP	Syrian Heritage Pages
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SiHG	Syria Is Here Group
SMH	Save Muslim Heritage
SOSCO	SOS Chrétiens d'Orient - French Society for Oriental Christians
SYRHER	Syrian Heritage Archive Project
TNA	The National Archives
TSC	The Syria Campaign
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WMF	World Monument Fund