

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM - SPRING 1979

Kassem Toueir of the National Museum, Damascus, Syria, has accepted MESA's invitation to spend several weeks in the United States and Canada visiting and lecturing at Middle East centers in the spring of 1979. A summary of his curriculum vita and a list of suggested lecture topics are given below. Persons interested in having Mr. Toueir visit their centers or departments should contact the MESA Secretariat, New York University, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, Washington Square, New York, N.Y. 10003. Please do so as promptly as possible. The Visiting Scholars Program provides travel and per diem allowances.

KASSEM TOUEIR

Master's Degree, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 1962.
Vice-Director of Excavations and Archaeological Studies, Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, National Museum, Damascus. Also, 'Chargé de cours,' Faculties of Fine Arts and Architecture, University of Damascus.

Publications: "Ein Neuer Omayyadischer Goldschatz in Damaskus," *Annales Archaeologiques Syriennes*, 1966 [German and Arabic].
"Die Holzmalereien des Aleppo-Zimmer," *Kunst des Orients*, VI, Islamischen Museum, Berlin, 1969. "Ten Roman Hypogae in Damascus," *Annales Archaeologiques Syriennes*, 1970. "Ceramiques Mameloukes à Damas," *Bulletin d'Études Orientales*, 1975. "Tombes Myceniennes a Ras Ibn-Hani," *Archaeologia*, Paris, 1976. "Clay Figurines of the 3rd Millenium," *Syro-Mesopotamian Studies*, Los Angeles, September 1978.

Suggested Lecture Topics:

- 1- The Uncovering and Reconstruction of Qasr el-Banat in Raqqa [important building dated to 12th - 13th centuries A.D.].
- 2- The Uncovering of the Palace of Caliph Haroun al-Rashid in Haraqah, near Raqqa.
- 3- An Attempt at the Possible Meaning of the "Magical Numbers" in Islamic Architecture.
- 4- Ebla, and Its Importance in Syrian Archaeology.
- 5- Overview of the Archaeological Activities in Syria Since the Beginning of the 20th Century [development of the co-operation between the Department of Syrian Antiquities and foreign institutions].

ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR 1977-1978

The activities of the MESA central office during the past year have been divided between carrying out established secretariat operations and searching for ways of improving the Association's financial situation. This report will be divided in a similar way, although at times the division is somewhat artificial.

1. Finances

A year ago the financial picture was bleak, with a substantial