

# News: Latest Events and 38 Publications<sup>1</sup>

**1. *Archaeological and Historical exhibit (Le Parcours Archéologique)*:** Organised in the spring of 1995 under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education with the Directorate General of Antiquities and UNESCO. It involved a series of informative panels hung around Martyr's Square each presenting one of the 13 periods in the history of Beirut.

**2. *Urban Archaeology 94'*:** published by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, sponsored by Solidère, this pamphlet was published in 1995. It contains numerous pictures and plans showing what has emerged to date from the excavations South, East, and West of the Souk sector:

- The ancient water supply system with its ceramic piping
- The silk industry which later flourished in the 19th century under the driving force of Emir Fakhr-ed-Din.
- The expansion of the ceramic industry especially the manufacture of coffee cups in line with the then new fashion of coffee drinking probably brought to Beirut from Mecca by Ali Ibn Iraq el-Damashqi and to whom the Ribat is the only monument found commemorating him.

**3. *Archéologie et Patrimoine*:** published by UNESCO and the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) in conjunction with the Directorate General of Antiquities this journal contains information on current excavations displayed in colour photos and its articles alternate between one of three languages used in the country.

**4. The History of Beirut (Histoire de Beyrouth)** (by Saleh Ben Yahya), *Annales d'Histoire et d'Archéologie Université Saint-Joseph, Beyrouth*, Vol 6, 1995, p1-64. It was written in the 15th century this is a detailed history of Beirut and its outlying areas which recounts the three Crusader invasions as well as the ensuing tribal wars at that time.

**5. *Archaeological walk logbook*:** This brochure was issued to accompany the exhibition "Beirut's Archaeological Days" held from the 20th October to the 5th of November 1995 and organised by Solidère in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. It contained an introduction by H.E. Michel Eddé, Minister of Culture and Higher Education and further articles by Nasser Chammaa, Camille Asmar and Hareth Boustany. It also contains ten coloured illustrations of various objects found during the excavations. What makes the unearthed remains of Beirut so impressive is not so much the size and number of large monuments found there but the discovery of a traceable urban continuity stretching over 5000 years. Nevertheless the end result of 150 archaeologists exploring 5 hectares of the city centre produced an impressive number of edifices, large objects (statues, columns and sarcophagi), over 5 million sherds, 7000 coins from various eras and 800 square metres of mosaics.

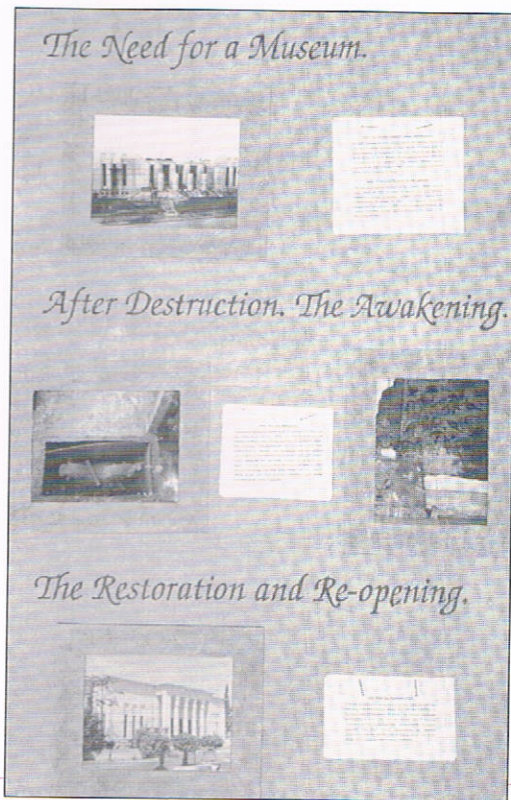
**6.** The London Lebanese Tourist Office hosted between 20-25 November 1995 a most informative exhibition aimed at promoting the country's varied resources. Structured along a "regional theme," the exhibition presented Lebanon's five counties or *mohafazat* through their respective resources: agricultural, industrial, cultural, touristic, etc. The National Museum of Beirut had pride of place in the space allocated to Beirut and the panel (illustration 1) was very kindly designed by Zina Ghandour. It was used to emphasise the need for and the role played by the National Museum.

**7.** Recovery of the 5th statue of Eshmoun<sup>2</sup> that was traced to a London auction house catalogue and was successfully recuperated by the Lebanese Embassy. We are very grateful to HE Mr. Mahmoud Hammoud, Ambassador of Lebanon to the UK, for allowing *NMNews* to take photos of the statue before it was returned to the Directorate General of Antiquities (illustration 2).

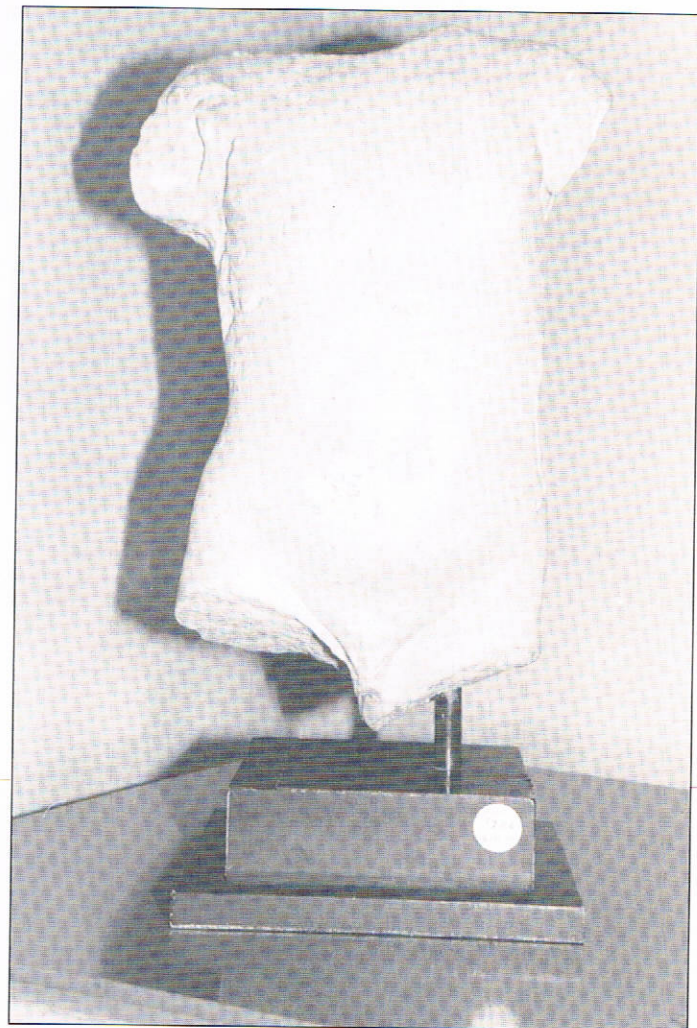
8. New Appointments at the Directorate General of Antiquities. Nine archaeologists and one architect have been appointed to cover most of the numerous archaeological sites in the country. The archaeologist are: J. Nakhlé, A. Seif, A. Cha'ya, T. Zaven, J. Fadlallah, B. Traboulsi, S. Karam, D Chamseldine, M. Francis and the architect is K. Rifai.

**1** This information was collected by Danielle Ayas (1,2,3,4), Ralda Boulos (5), and Zeina Korban (6, 7, 8).

**2** See *National Museum News* 2 (1995): 31.



Panel on the Beirut National Museum exhibited at the Lebanese Tourism Office in London.



Recovered Statue of Eshmoun