

German Protestant Institute of Archaeology of the Holy Land (DEIAHL)

The German Protestant Institute of Archaeology of the Holy Land can look back at more than one hundred years of research in the Middle East. The founding was suggested by Emperor Wilhelm II during his visit to Jerusalem in 1898. The institute was then founded at the German Conference of Protestant Churches in Eisenach in 1900. In 1903, the institute in Jerusalem was built and officially inaugurated. World Wars I and II and their after-effects brought regular fieldwork to an end. It could not be resumed before 1960. Soon again, and this time because of the regional war of 1967 and its political entanglements, the German Protestant Institute was unable to continue projects already started in Transjordan from its Jerusalem branch.

Only an institute in Jordan could secure an efficient continuity of work there. Thanks to the enormous efforts of Dr. Ute Wagner-Lux, a piece of land was bought in Amman in 1976. Between 1975 and 1980, the Volkswagen Foundation Hanover financed the construction of the building in north-west Amman. The official inauguration of the institute followed in April 1982.

The institute is conducted by an administration board and a scientific advisory board directed by a bishop. The management lies in the hands of the Protestant Church of Germany, which finances the institute together with the German Federal Foreign Office. Since 2007, the institute is also a research unit of the German Institute of Archaeology.

The German Protestant Institute is a firm component of the German cultural work in Jordan and is tightly embodied in the bilateral cultural agreement of both countries.

It enjoys high esteem and recognition in Jordan. The numerous projects - frequently carried out in cooperation with Jordanian partners and aiming at laying open and preserving the cultural heritage - provide among other things important contributions to the development of a "regional identity". These projects represent one of the most important requirements for the dialogue between the cultures. The tasks and activities of the institute are numerous:

The institute organizes archaeological meetings, international symposia, exhibitions, conferences and workshops, often in close cooperation with local or foreign institutions active in Jordan. The events are often being carried out under the patronage of the Jordanian Royal Hashemite Court.

In addition to this, a yearly study-tour for the so-called "Lehrkurs" belongs to the tasks of the institute. It is a scholarship for German doctor-degree graduates in theology and other cultural disciplines dealing with the Middle East for a journey through the





countries of the region, on which they shall study its archaeology and topography, its history and its present.

For many years, the archaeological research has focused on the investigation of the ancient site of Gadara/ modern Umm Qais in northern Jordan. These investigations are carried out in close cooperation with the German Institute of Archaeology Berlin. Since 2004, the archaeological work of the German Protestant Institute together with the Biblical Archaeological Institute at the Bergische-Universität Wuppertal has been concentrating on the “Gadara region project” and the excavation of the most prominent site Tall Zir‘a in the Wadi al-‘Arab just south of Gadara.



For more information confer: www.deiahl.de

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