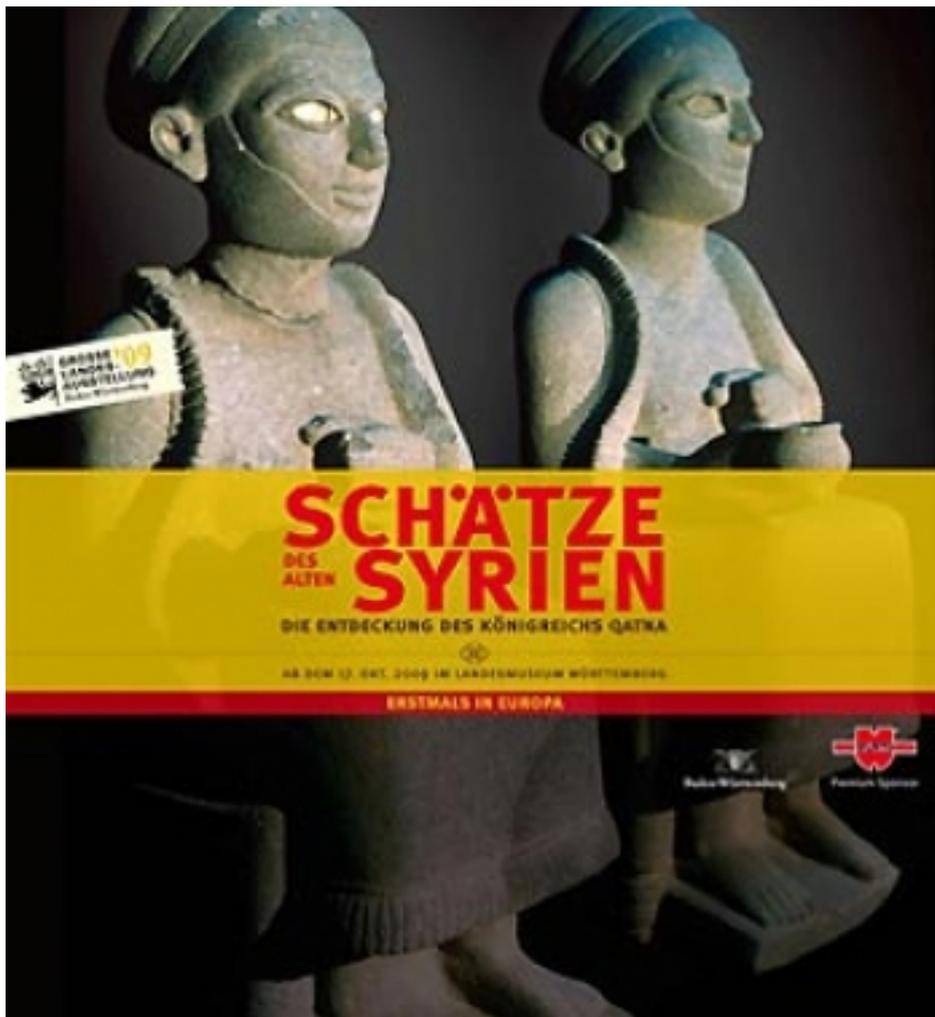


Qatna Kingdom Exhibition Takes Ancient Syria to Germany

Edited by Rami Alshami

Tuesday, 15 September 2009 23:02



For the first time in Europe, Württemberg State Museum will stage a major exhibition of treasures from the forgotten kingdom of Qatna, 18 km northeast of the Syrian central city of Homs.

The ancient city of Qatna was discovered in the 1920s, but was more or less forgotten until in 1999 an international team of archaeologists resumed excavations there.

In this regard, Minister of Tourism Saadallah Agha al-Qalaa received Monday a delegation from Stuttgart Museum in Germany headed by professor Cornelia Fegilin, the Museum Manager and a delegation of the German company which is responsible for organizing "Treasures of Ancient Syria - Qatna Kingdom Exhibition" from 16 October 2009 to 14 March 2010 at the Württemberg State Museum in Stuttgart.

The Minister reviewed the efforts exerted by the ministry regarding the external promotional campaigns and showing tourist ingredients, indicating that more than 20 promotional campaigns were organized since the beginning of the year.

He added that a promotional campaign would be launched simultaneously with the opening of the exhibition.

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The minister indicated that his ministry would also hold Syrian tourism days along with the International Exhibition for Caravanning, Motoring and Tourism (CMT) scheduled to be held at the New Stuttgart Trade Fair Center in January 2010.

The impressive city, which reached its heyday in the 2nd century BC, is still dominating the landscape: 20-m-high ruined walls enclose an almost square area of approx. 110 hectares. The excavation of the palace created a sensation in 2002: a 40-m-long corridor leading downwards from the ceremonial hall gave access to an intact royal burial chamber containing over 2000 artifacts: weapons, garment trimmings, furniture ornaments and gold jewelry with precious stones, fabrics decorated with purple, cylinder seals and other precious findings from the royal tomb.

With great effort it was possible to retrieve these treasures, which have been undiscovered in the ground for over 3000 years and will now be on display for the first time in Europe at Württemberg State Museum.

The sophisticated presentation with modern media and reconstructions will occupy an exhibition area of over 1000 sq.m. and will also include (SANA)

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