

IXth SYRIAC SYMPOSIUM
VIIth CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIAN ARAB STUDIES

Lebanon, Sayyidat al-Bir, Monday 20th – Saturday 25th September 2004

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

1. We are pleased to confirm that the 9th Symposium Syriacum and the 7th Christian-Arab Studies Congress will take place from Monday 20th to Saturday 25th of September 2004, at the convent of Sayyidat al-Bir, Lebanon. This dual gathering is jointly organized by the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (Jounieh) and CEDRAC, St. Joseph University (Beirut). The specific, but non-exclusive, theme of these two gatherings will be: "The Dialogue of Cultures".

2. The response has far exceeded our expectations with 103 Orientalists already having given notice of their intention to attend not counting all those participants from the Middle-East. Up until now 65 people have offered to contribute papers to the Symposium Syriacum (of whom 16 have not yet submitted a title) and 34 people have offered to contribute papers to the Christian-Arab Studies Congress (of whom 16 have not yet submitted a title). Please note that these papers should not exceed 20 minutes (to be followed by a few minutes of questions or discussion).

3. Please find attached a list of current participants. **Please fill in this form correcting and completing it as necessary and return it to us as soon as possible to the double email addresses.** Please also forward this announcement to other researchers so that they might get in touch with us. In the meantime the date for the end of subscription is Easter (11th April 2004). Given the numbers we will be obliged to have two simultaneous papers.

4. The Congress will take place at Notre-Dame du Puits (Sayyidat al-Bîr), a fully equipped centre with individual rooms with en suite bathrooms, numerous air-conditioned conference chambers, excellent Lebanese cuisine and a friendly reception. It is located 30 minutes away from Beirut Centre, at an altitude of 350 meters above sea level and surrounded by a pine forest. It can accommodate 67 people. Given the declared number of participants it will be necessary to rely upon hotels. A bus service will provide transport for participants to and from the hotel.

5. The price for your participation, in order to pay for expenses, will amount to 250 euros for the complete 6 day period, fully comprehensive. Arrival is expected on the 19th of September and departure is set for the evening of Saturday the 25th of September. Those who wish to come earlier or leave later are asked to inform us as soon as possible if they wish for us to look after them.

6. An excursion day and a tour of Lebanon is planned for those who are interested. It will probably take place on Sunday the 26th after the Congress. Please inform us if you are interested in taking part.

P.S. If you wish to receive a letter of invitation in order to obtain a visa for Lebanon, please inform us as soon as possible.

Looking forward to meeting you in Lebanon and awaiting your responses.

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