

The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD) And the Directorate General for Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) have the pleasure to invite you for the lecture:

“Royal” Tombs of Third Millennium BC Syria: Excavations at Tell Umm el-Marra

- By Glenn M. Schwartz -

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA



Glenn Schwartz is professor of archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.

Participating in and directing archaeological excavations in Syria since 1978, Schwartz’s research focuses on the emergence and early history of urban civilizations. He is the author, together with Peter Akkermans, of *The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Urban Societies, 17,000-300 BC* (published by Cambridge University Press, 2003).



Gatherers to Urban Societies, 17,000-300 BC (published by Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Thursday 28th May 2009, at the DGAM at 17:00h

Excavations at Tell Umm el-Marra in the Jabbul plain east of Aleppo have exposed a large mortuary complex associated with local rulers in the period of Syria’s first urban civilization. The skeletons and artifacts found in the tombs allow us to reconstruct funerary practices and beliefs in unprecedented detail, while nearby structures containing the skeletons of equids (donkeys, horses)

and other animals provide unique evidence of sacrificial rituals accompanying the burial of the illustrious dead. The Umm el-Marra data reveal the importance of ancestor veneration and kin relationships among the elite of Syria’s first urban civilization.



Language: English with Arabic translation.

Location: Al-Qaaá al Shamieh, DGAM, (Baramka).

Time : 17H00.

For more information: Telephone: 011-6117622, E-mail: assistant@niasd.org.