

Biographical details – Ross BURNS Ph D, FAHA

Adjunct Professor in Ancient History, Macquarie University, Sydney

Ross Burns was a career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs for 37 years until his retirement in 2003. In that time he had a range of overseas postings with an emphasis on the Middle East, Africa and Europe. He served as Ambassador to Syria and Lebanon (based in Damascus) from 1984 to 1987 and Head of the Middle East and Africa Branch in Canberra (1988 to 1991). He was Minister (and Ambassador to UNESCO) in Paris and Ambassador in Tel Aviv from 2001 to 2003. He was also Ambassador in South Africa during the transition from apartheid to democracy (1992-95) and in Greece (1998-2001).

Since his retirement, Ross retains a keen interest in all aspects of the Middle East, not least its history and archaeology – the subjects that first drew his attention to the region at Sydney University in the early 1960s where he combined archaeology (Near Eastern) with history.

Ross is the author of two books on the archaeology of Syria –

- *Monuments of Syria* (I B Tauris, London 1992; State University of New York Press, 1992; French edition 1998; second edition 1999; third edition 2009)
- *Damascus – A History* (Routledge, London and New York, 2005).

In 2011, he completed a Ph D at Macquarie University, Sydney, through the Dept of Ancient History on 'The Origins of the Colonnaded Axes of the Cities of the Near East Under Rome'.

Among other projects, he is currently working with a team at Oxford University on documenting sites, which originated as temples in the Roman period and became churches and/ or mosques in later centuries.

Two books are also under way—a history of Aleppo and a study of the monuments of Lebanon.

Recent public lectures include presentations at the Kuwait National Museum, Oxford University, Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation (Univ of Sydney), Workers Educational Association (Sydney), Nicholson Museum (Univ of Sydney), Centre for Continuing Education (Univ of Sydney), Australian Institute of International Affairs (Sydney and Perth), Classics Museum at ANU, Society for the Study of Early Christianity (Macquarie Univ), AGNSW (TASA), Australians Studying Abroad (Melbourne and Sydney)

Having travelled through the Eastern Mediterranean for many years, Ross has accumulated an archive of 80,000 photos and slides of archaeological sites, which he is planning to make available online through the Near Eastern Archaeological Foundation at the University of Sydney. Meanwhile, a foretaste of the archive can be seen at www.monumentsofsyria.com and at the Flickr site www.flickr.com/photos/monsyr/collections.

A list of printed publications is attached.

July 2014

Website — www.monumentsofsyria.com

Flickr — www.flickr.com/photos/monsyr/collections

PRINTED PUBLICATIONS — ROSS BURNS

(BOOKS MARKED IN BOLD)

Burns, R., *Monuments of Syria — An Historical Guide*, I B Tauris, London
(1993; second edition 1999, third edition 2009; French edition 1998)

Burns, R., 'The Defence of Roman Damascus', *Electrum* (special issue on *The Roman Near East and Armenia*), 7: 47–70 (2003)

Burns, R., *Damascus, a History*, Routledge, London (2005)

Burns, R., 'Review of *The Architecture of Alexandria and Egypt, c 300 BC – AD 700* Yale-Pelican History of Art series', *Levant*, 41 (no. 1): 125–126 (2010)

Burns, R., 'Damascus in the Old Testament' in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Seow, Choon-Leong *et al.*, De Gruyter, Berlin (2011 forthcoming)

Burns, R., *Colonnaded Streets in the Cities of the East Under Rome*, Ph D thesis, Macquarie (2011)

Burns, R., 'Justinian's Fortifications East of Antioch' in *Basileia: Essays on Imperium and Culture in Honour of E. M. and M. J. Jeffreys*, Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, Brisbane: 121–140 (2011)

Burns, R., 'The Colonnaded Axes of the Cities of the Decapolis and Southern Syria in the Roman Imperial Period – Romanization or Localization?', *Aram* (special issue on the Syrian Decapolis), 23, 429–447 (2011)

Burns, R., 'Diocletian's Fortification of Syria and Arabia' in (*Festschrift for Fergus Millar*), edited by Lieu, S., Peeters, Leiden (2012 forthcoming)

Burns, R., 'The Origins of the Colonnaded Axes in the Cities of the East under Rome' in *Die Architektur des Weges*, Schnell & Steiner, Regensburg (2014)

Collaborations

Weber, T. M., and al-Mohammed, Q., *Sculptures from Roman Syria in the Syrian National Museum at Damascus - vol. I From Cities and Villages in Central and Southern Syria*, Wernersche Verlagsgesellschaft, Worms (2006) — assistance with translation from German and with site information.