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Knight on horseback found in early Umayyad funerary scene.

Local news

A joint Syrian-Swiss team working in the area of Qasr al-Heir Al-Sharq near Tadmor (Palmyra) has found a partially preserved relief of a funerary scene featuring a knight riding a horse and wearing Eastern garb and a cloak. A small bird sits on the horse's back, behind the knight.



In addition, parts of the columns and arches of a range of mihrab used to decorate the facades have been found, as well as part of the scene of a man placing his hands on his chest, surrounded by decorations in the form of flowers and palm fronds.

The Director of Antiquities and Museums in Tadmor, Walid al-Assad, said in a press statement that "the mission is opening up and expanding its exploration of a spacious building composed of a large number of regular rooms equipped with bathrooms, drainage channels and fire places." He went on to say that "the mission is conducting studies and exploration in an area of mud houses to the north of the great palace, which are attributed to the early Umayyad period."

The palace he refers to is Qasr Al-Heir East, a palace complex built in the Syrian desert by the Umayyad Khalif Hisham ibn Abd al-Malik in 110 AH. The palace is located within a complete ancient town, which was a resort for Umayyad Khalifs. The resort consisted of two palaces, the larger one about 160 meters long, and a smaller, dog-legged one about 70 meters long.

He states that the mission is working on the framework of a program to update the methodology of the study of sites of Islamic civilization in the desert.

Syria News

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Translated by Harrison Clark for Beroia Travel.