Press Release 04/07/2014

Syriaca.org publishes The Syriac Gazetteer (http://syriaca.org/geo/)

<u>Syriaca.org</u> is pleased to announce publication of <u>The Syriac Gazetteer</u> (http://syriaca.org/geo/), a geographical dictionary for Syriac Studies. The first in a suite of reference works to be published as a part of *The Syriac Reference Portal*, <u>The Syriac Gazetteer</u> contains entries for over 2400 places relevant to Syriac Studies, from ancient centers of Syriac culture (such as <u>Edessa</u>) to diaspora communities (such as the monastery of <u>Mor Awgen</u> in Switzerland), and from places of interest to Syriacists (such as <u>Dura-Europos</u>) to places where Syriac scholarship is being produced today (such as <u>Piscataway</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>).

<u>The Syriac Gazetteer</u> is an ever expanding resource created by and for users. This first edition is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather it establishes a framework for the Syriac Studies community to collaborate in collecting and publishing geographic information. This framework facilitates the linking of various online resources for Syriac Studies.

At a minimum each place entry is composed of name forms and place type information, along with some indication of location, where possible. Through user contributions, all records may be expanded to include additional name forms, latitude and longitude, events, prose descriptions, information about religious communities, bibliography, and attestations in primary sources.

Users are encouraged to begin exploring *The Syriac Gazetteer* through these links:

Main page: http://syriaca.org/geo/

About the Gazetteer: http://syriaca.org/geo/about.html
Browse the Collection: http://syriaca.org/geo/browse.html

Browse via Interactive Map: http://syriaca.org/geo/browse.html?view=map

Edessa, the model entry: http://syriaca.org/place/78
Documentation: http://syriaca.org/geo/help/
Syriaca.org, the larger project: http://syriaca.org/

This publication is the result of the collaboration and good will of the many scholars who have helped create it. Funding for the project has come from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Fondazione Internazionale Balzan, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (U.S.A.).

The editors and sponsors of the project now invite the whole scholarly community to become contributors and help this reference work grow and develop in ways that will support the wide interests of scholarly and public audiences.

The editors of the project welcome inquiries from the media and offers of collaboration from the scholarly community. They may be reached at info@syriaca.org.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Carlson, Princeton University, Co-editor David A. Michelson, Vanderbilt University, Co-editor