



SUPPORT FOR PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN LIBYA (10/18/11)

On October 18, 2011, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged \$180,000 to support a new U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) project bringing together Oberlin College and the Libyan Department of Antiquities to preserve endangered archaeological sites in the Cyrenaica region of eastern Libya through a comprehensive program of mapping, documentation, and risk assessment. The sites comprise some of the most culturally significant archaeology in the Mediterranean and include the monuments of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cyrene.

The project, which was submitted to the AFCP by the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli in December 2010, is called *Documentation and Assessment of Cyrenaican Archaeological Sites*.

Background

Current grant is the third such Ambassadors Fund grant awarded in support of the preservation of Libya's cultural heritage since the resumption of diplomatic relations between Libya and the U.S. in 2004.

All three grants support the work of the Cyrenaica Archaeological Project (CAP), an international mission under the direction of Professor Susan Kane of Oberlin College (Ohio, USA). CAP works in partnership with Libyan archaeologists at the ancient Greco-Roman site of Cyrene and at sites throughout the Cyrenaica region.

Previous AFCP grants:

- \$74,500 in 2010 for the documentation and training in the management of archaeological collections at Cyrene
- \$45,700 in 2005 for the preservation of the archaeological and photographic collections at Cyrene

AFCP grants have supported a variety of cultural heritage preservation activities in Libya, including:

- conservation of collections of the Department of Antiquities regional library in Shahat
- training at the ancient Greco-Roman site of Cyrene for Libyan archaeologists in archaeological site survey and documentation, GIS-based site mapping, collections and records management, and archaeological site and museum management
- mapping and documentation of endangered archaeological sites in Cyrenaica province in eastern Libya