Attendees: Messrs. VAUCHEZ, JARRIGE, JOUANNA, BERNARD, DENTZER, ROBIN, GRIMAL, SODINI and Mrs Caubet.
Excused: Messrs. ZINK, MAHÉ, LECLANT, VERELLEN, PICARD, Morel and Guilaine.

The President, Mr. André VAUCHEZ, opened the session. Two major projects had been sent to the Académie: one about the site of Tyre and the other about al-Yamâma (Saudi Arabia).

Mr. Jean-Marie DENTZER spoke in support of the project of Mr. Pierre-Louis Gatier, Research Director of the CNRS at the Maison de l’Orient (Lyon), about the French-Lebanese mission on the site of Tyre. Mr. Jean-François JARRIGE and Mrs Annie Caubet gave their full support to Mr. Jean-Marie DENTZER’s proposition in favor of this original project.

Mr. Christian ROBIN spoke in support of the project of Mr. Jérémie Schiettecatte, Research Fellow at the CNRS since 2010, about the archaeological exploration of the most important archeological site from central Arabia: al-Yamâma.

After a general discussion, the members of the Burkhart prize Committee decided unanimously to award the prize to Mr. Pierre-Louis Gatier for his project.

Mr. Jérémie Schiettecatte’s project, which aroused great interest from the Committee, will be presented again in 2012.

Prize Winner Project:

The excavations program conducted by Mr. Pierre-Louis Gatier, in collaboration with the Directorate of Antiquities of Lebanon and under the auspices of UNESCO which included the site of Tyre on the World Heritage List, aims both to a better knowledge of the site and the preservation and promotion of the ancient remains. An inventory of all the buildings has been made in the center of the ancient city located on what was formerly an island. Restorations of the ancient constructions excavated before the Lebanon war are planned and will benefit from systematic measurement and studies. This could open new perspectives on aspects of the city and the history of Tyre. The areas studied in priority are: the thermal baths district with a colonnade “street” and a building with rows (a large thermal complex mainly Byzantine) and the cathedral district (12th-13th centuries). A research about craftsmanship in the thermal district will also be completed (fabrication of ceramics and glass).

2011 Prize Winner: Mr. Pierre-Louis Gatier
Born on October, 15th 1951

1979: 3rd cycle Doctorate (Lyon): “Greek and Latin inscriptions from Jordan. Central region.”

1981: Research Associate at the CNRS, Maison de l’Orient (Lyon)

1998: Seconded from the CNRS, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Saint-Joseph in Beirut (Lebanon)

2003: Appointed Research Director, 2nd Class, History and Sources on the Ancient Worlds

For more informations: http://www.hisoma.mom.fr/PERSO/GATIER_fiche.html