

## Religion, Society and Culture at Dura-Europos

This volume advances our understanding of the religion, society and culture of Dura-Europos, the small town on the Euphrates known since the 1930s as the ‘Pompeii of the Syrian desert’. Several features make the site what is potentially our best source for day-to-day life in a small town situated on the periphery of the Roman world: inscriptions and graffiti in ten ancient languages; sculptures and frescoes combining elements of Classical and Oriental art; the most important papyrological dossier of any military unit in the Roman world; documents relating to the local economy; over a dozen pagan sanctuaries, plus a famously painted synagogue and the earliest Christian house church, all set in a gridiron city plan and surrounded by well-preserved fortifications. Dura’s unique findings facilitate the study of life in a provincial small town to a degree that archaeology and history do not usually allow.

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Edited for the Department of Classics by

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*University of Durham*



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## Preface

In the final stages of the editorial process the ruins of Dura-Europos on the Euphrates plateau at Salihyeh had already undergone major damage in the context of the tragedies that have been unfolding in Syria since 2011. By the time this volume was getting ready to go into production, the ruins were still suffering further losses, especially through very heavy looting. Though individual contributors to this volume may have been tempted to update their final text in the light of this, it has been decided that the recent and ongoing destruction would not be reflected throughout this volume.

## Acknowledgements

Most of the papers originated from the colloquium 'Religion, Society and Culture at Dura-Europos' held at the Department of Classics and Ancient History, Durham University, on 19–20 December 2008, under the auspices of the Durham Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East (CAMNE). However, this volume cannot be said to present proceedings as such, since some contributors fundamentally changed the scope (or even the subject) of their paper (Jacqueline Austin, Jen Baird, Lucinda Dirven and Susan B. Downey), and some papers were especially commissioned for the publication (Lisa R. Brody and Leonardo Gregoratti). The colloquium paper by Simon James, a report on the military base of Dura-Europos, formed work in progress towards his forthcoming monograph *The Roman Military Base at Dura-Europos: An Archaeological Visualisation* and is therefore not included here. My own paper, on Dura-Europos under Roman rule, had been promised for publication elsewhere.

The colloquium was generously funded by CAMNE, by the Syrian Embassy at London, by the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust (London) and by the Department of Classics and Ancient History and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Durham University. Accommodation was provided at St Chad's College, Durham. I am grateful to Abir Jarf, then Cultural Counsellor of the Syrian Embassy, for opening the colloquium, and also to my colleague Johannes Haubold, founding father and then director of CAMNE, for extending a warm welcome on behalf of the Centre and for his support in general. Thanks are further due to Francesca Mazzilli and Rik van Wijlick for their assistance at the time of the colloquium, and to Leonardo Gregoratti and Maura Heyn for their help in the later stages. I owe a great thank you especially to Peter Alpass for improving the English of some of the papers.

I remain, as always, very grateful to Susan Matheson, the Molly and Walter Bareiss Curator of Ancient Art of the Yale University Art Gallery (YUAG), for granting permission to use Yale's images, and to her, Lisa Brody and Megan Doyon for their joyful support at the YUAG throughout. At Yale, thanks are also due to Milette Gaifman for her help and friendship. At Cambridge University Press, my sincere thanks go to Michael Sharp for his help, patience and kindness, and to his assistant editors Liz Hanlon

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## Abbreviations

AAS	<i>Annales Archéologiques de Syrie</i>
AAAS	<i>Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes</i>
AÉ	<i>Année épigraphique</i>
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
AJPh	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
ANRW	H. Temporini and W. Haase (eds), <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> (Berlin, 1972–)
AnTard	<i>Antiquité tardive</i>
AntJ	<i>The Antiquaries Journal</i>
AUB(class)	<i>Annales Universitatis Budapestinensis de Rolando Eotvos nominatae</i>
BAI	<i>Bulletin of the Asia Institute</i>
BCH	<i>Bulletin de correspondance hellénique</i>
BJ	<i>Bonner Jahrbücher</i>
ChLA	A. Bruckner, R. Marichal et al., <i>Chartae Latinae Antiquiores: Facsimile Edition of the Latin Charters Prior to the Ninth Century</i> (Basel, Dietikon – Zurich, 1953–)
CIMRM	M. Vermaseren, <i>Corpus inscriptionum et monumentorum religionis mithriacae I–II</i> (The Hague, 1956–60)
CIS	<i>Corpus inscriptionum semiticarum</i> (ed. J.-B. Chabot). Pars secunda. Tomus III: <i>Inscriptiones palmyrenae</i> (Paris, 1926–47)
CLA	E. A. Lowe (ed.), <i>Codices latini antiquiores</i> (Oxford, 1934–)
CPh	<i>Classical Philology</i>
CRAI	<i>Comptes-rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions</i>
DEÉ	P. Leriche et al. (eds), <i>Doura-Europos: Études</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [I] 1983–4, in <i>Syria</i> 63 (1986), 1–155</li> <li>• [II] 1986–7, in <i>Syria</i> 65 (1988), 259–382</li> <li>• [III] 1988–90, in <i>Syria</i> 69 (1992), 1–151</li> <li>• IV 1991–3 (Beirut, 1997). Eds P. Leriche and M. Gelin</li> <li>• V 1994–7 (Damascus, 2004 [2007]). Eds P. Leriche, M. Gelin and A. Dandrau</li> </ul>

<i>DNP</i>	<i>Der Neue Pauly</i>
<i>EA</i>	<i>Epigraphica Anatolica</i>
<i>EDV</i>	P. Leriche, G. Coqueugniot and S. De Pontbriand, <i>Europos-Doura: Varia</i>  • I (Beirut, 2012)
<i>GGM</i>	C. Müller (ed.), <i>Geographi graeci minores</i> I–II (Paris, 1855–61)
<i>HSCP</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>HThR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>ID</i>	F. Durrbach and P. Roussel, <i>Inscriptions de Délos</i> (Paris, 1935–7)
<i>IGLS</i>	L. Jalabert, R. Mouterde et al, <i>Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie</i> (Paris, 1929–)
<i>I. Nécropole</i>	J.-P. Rey-Coquais, <i>Inscriptions grecques et latines découvertes dans les fouilles de Tyr (1963–1974)</i> I. <i>Inscriptions de la nécropole</i> (Paris, 1977)
<i>Inv.</i>	<i>Inventaire des inscriptions de Palmyre</i> , I–IX ed. J. Cantineau (Beirut, 1930–6); X ed. J. Starcky (Damascus, 1949); XI ed. J. Teixidor (Beirut, 1965); XII (Damascus, 1975)
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JRA</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Archaeology</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JThS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>KAI</i>	H. Donner and W. Röllig, <i>Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften</i> I–III <sup>3</sup> (Wiesbaden, 1972–6)
<i>MBAH</i>	<i>Münstersche Beiträge zur antiken Handelsgeschichte</i>
<i>MDAI(R)</i>	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts, Roemische Abteilung</i>
<i>MedAnt</i>	<i>Mediterraneo antico: Economia, società, cultura</i>
<i>MÉFRA</i>	<i>Mélanges d'archéologie et d'histoire de l'École française de Rome</i>
<i>MUSJ</i>	<i>Mélanges de l'Université St. Joseph</i>
<i>PAT</i>	D. R. Hillers and E. Cussini, <i>Palmyrene Aramaic Texts</i> (Baltimore – London, 1996)
<i>P. Dura</i>	Welles, Fink and Gilliam (1959)
<i>P. Euphr.</i>	D. Feissel and J. Gascou, 'Documents d'archives romains inédits du Moyen Euphrate (III <sup>e</sup> s. après J.-C.) I' in <i>Journal des Savants</i> (1995), 65–119; 'II' in (1997), 3–57 (with J. Teixidor); 'III' in (2000), 157–208



- PSI *Papiri Greci e Latini: Pubblicazioni della Società italiana per la ricerca dei papiri greci e latini in Egitto* (Florence, 1912–)
- RB *Revue biblique*
- Rep. I, II, etc. M. I. Rostovtzeff et al. (eds), *The Excavations at Dura-Europos, Conducted by Yale University and the French Academy of Inscriptions and Letters. Preliminary Reports I–IX* (New Haven, 1929–52)
- I: *Preliminary Report of First Season of Work, Spring 1928*. Eds P. V. C. Baur and M. I. Rostovtzeff (1929)
  - II: ... *of Second Season of Work, October 1928 – April 1929*. Eds P. V. C. Baur and M.I. Rostovtzeff (1931)
  - III: ... *of Third Season of Work, November 1929 – March 1930*. Eds. P. V. C. Baur, M. I. Rostovtzeff and A. R. Bellinger (1932)
  - IV: ... *of Fourth Season of Work, October 1930 – March 1931*. Eds. P. V. C. Baur, M. I. Rostovtzeff and A. R. Bellinger (1933)
  - V: ... *of Fifth Season of Work, October 1931 – March 1932*. Ed. M. I. Rostovtzeff (1934)
  - VI: ... *of Sixth Season of Work, October 1932 – March 1933*. Eds M. I. Rostovtzeff, A. R. Bellinger, C. Hopkins and C. B. Welles (1936).
  - VII–VIII: ... *of the Seventh and Eighth Seasons of Work, 1933–1934 and 1934–1935*. Eds M. I. Rostovtzeff, F. E. Brown and C. B. Welles (1939)
  - IX.1–3: ... *of the Ninth Season of Work, 1935–1936*. Eds M. I. Rostovtzeff, A. R. Bellinger, F. E. Brown and C. B. Welles (1944–52)
    - 1: Part I: *The Agora and Bazaar* (1944)
    - 2: Part II: N. P. Toll, *The Necropolis* (1946)
    - 3: Part III: *The Palace of the Dux Ripae and the Dolicheneum* (1952)
- RE G. Wissowa et al. (eds), *Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft* (Stuttgart)
- RÉS *Répertoire d'épigraphie sémitique I–VIII*, eds C. Clermont-Ganneau and J. B. Chabot (Paris, 1900–68)
- RFIC *Rivista di Filologia e di Istruzione Classica*
- RHR *Revue de l'Histoire des Religions*

<i>RSP</i>	M. Gawlikowski, <i>Recueil d'inscriptions palmyréniennes provenant de fouilles syriennes et polonaises récentes à Palmyre</i> (Paris, 1974)
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum graecum</i>
<i>TAPA</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
<i>TMMM</i>	F. Cumont, <i>Textes et monuments figurés relatifs aux mystères de Mithra I–II</i> (Brussels, 1896–9)
<i>TUAT NF</i>	<i>Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments, Neue Folge</i> (Gütersloh, 2003–)
<i>WVDOG</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichung der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft</i>
<i>YCS</i>	<i>Yale Classical Studies</i>
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>