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**Arabe Cover Picture**

From left to right:
- Mishirfeh, royal tomb.
- Tell Gindaris, remains of building.
- Kherbet Al-Mataroon, stone relief.
- Dja’de el mughara, wall painting.
- Tell Hassake, part of cathedral.

**English Cover Picture**

From right to left:
- Tell Shir, area L-O 20-21.
- Palmyra, area of tomb.
- Tell Chuera, area K.
- Qasr al-Hayr al-sharqi, secteur E.
- Tell Afis, area of temples.

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MISSION AT PALMYRA, IGLS XVII
(OCTOBER 2008) : REPORT

J.-B. YON, W. AL-AS’AD, and Kh. AL-HARIRI

HiSoMA, CNRS, Maison de l’Orient, Lyon, DGAM

The mission in Palmyra (programme Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie [IGLS]), from October 8th to 13th 2008, was highly successful. The IGLS are a program of the team HiSoMA (CRNS-Université Lyon II, Maison de l’Orient), heir to the Institut F.-Courby. It is under supervision of Dr. J.-Cl. Decourt and Dr. P.-L. Gatier.

Jean-Baptiste YON would like to thank the Direction générale des Antiquités et les Musées de Syrie, its Directeur Général, Dr. Bassam Jammous, its Directeur des fouilles, Dr. Michel Maqdissi. Thanks to the permission liberally granted to me, field work could take place and be successful.

In Palmyra, archaeological institutions, represented by Walid As’ad, Director of Antiquities of Palmyra, have offered a lot of help. M. Khaled As’ad, former Director of Antiquities of Palmyra gave me useful informations. The Museum Team was a great assistance too.

As for most of French archaeological programs in the Near East, the IGLS are greatly indebted to the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO), for its help and support.

This year’s mission was a very short one, mostly for a last checking of some inscriptions, before the final redaction of volume XVII/1 of Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie (Palmyra). It was thus possible to work in the depot and to do some photographs of inscriptions: Inv A 805, A 1127 and A 1405. The last two should be compared as they most certainly refer to the same official, a Roman soldier, called Titus Flavius Priscus, but they do not belong to the same console. One the site, some verifications were made on particular objects, permitting to complete the documentation on the epigraphy of Palmyra.

The field work has permitted as well, in collaboration with Prof. M. Gawlikowski, to make some new copies and photographs of Aramaic texts discovered on the Northern wall by the Syrian Mission in 2002 and the years before. M. Khaled As’ad, then Director of Antiquities of Palmyra,
had the kindness to show them to me at the time and to propose me a joint publication (Khaled
As’ad, M. Gawlikowski and J.-B. Yon), of some 60 new inscriptions (mostly short epitaphs).

In the Museum was also seen a new bilingual caravan inscription, discovered by chance in the
sector south of Agora. The Greek text is destroyed (the last two lines excepted).

The text is the following :

[Αδδουδανον Αβγαρος του - - -]
[συνοδώρχην και ἀπὸ Χαραχός συναβάσα]
συνοδία τεμής χάριν ἓτους ΓΚ[Y]
μηνὸς Διστρου.
σλμ’ δην δυ ἰδωδν βρ ’bgη [- -] rb
στρ’ δυ ‘βδη ἱστρ’ δυ σλτ ’mn
μν κρκ’ λυχρ βηρή ’δρ σητ 423.

« This statue of Haddûdan,
son of Abgar - - -, head of ca-
 caravan, which was made by the
caravan which came back from
Karka with him, in his honour,
in the month Adar, year 423. »
(Aramaic)

The Greek text should have
been written mostly along the
same lines. The date (in Greek)
has been restored accordingly. Adar 423 of the Seleucid era is March 112 AD. We have here one
of the earliest caravan inscription and the earliest occurrence of the word for caravan (synodia).
The significance of this discovery to the chronology of the agora (the stone itself may come from
this area) is another matter, but it surely belongs to this discussion. The caravan leader Haddûdan
does not seem to be known otherwise.