

# The Archaeology and History of Jerash

*110 Years of Excavations*



EDITED BY  
ACHIM LICHTENBERGER  
AND RUBINA RAJA

BREPOLS

THE ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND HISTORY OF JERASH

JERASH PAPERS

*General Editors*

Achim Lichtenberger, *Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster*

Rubina Raja, *Aarhus Universitet*

VOLUME I

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

© 2018, **Brepols Publishers n.v., Turnhout, Belgium**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

D/2018/0095/94  
ISBN: 978-2-503-57820-0

Printed in the EU on acid-free paper

## CONTENTS

List of Illustrations.....	vii
Abbreviations.....	xix
1. The Archaeology and History of Jerash: 110 Years of Excavations — An Introduction ACHIM LICHTENBERGER and RUBINA RAJA.....	1
2. The Neolithic Site of Tell Abu Suwwan in Jerash, Jordan MAYSOON AL-NAHAR.....	7
3. A Byzantine <i>thermopolium</i> on the Main Colonnaded Street in Gerasa DANIELA BALDONI.....	15
4. Abbasid Jerash Reconsidered: Suburban Life in Jerash's Southwest District over the Longue Durée LOUISE BLANKE.....	39
5. The Role of Landscape in the Occupational History of Gerasa and its Hinterland DAVID D. BOYER.....	59
6. The Artemis Temple Reconsidered MASSIMO BRIZZI.....	87
7. Un Romain à Gerasa : une inscription grecque trouvée dans les fouilles de l'hippodrome PIERRE-LOUIS GATIER.....	111
8. Jerash Seen from Below. Part Two: Aspects of Urban Living in Late Antiquity INA KEHRBERG-OSTRASZ.....	119
9. The 'Great Eastern Baths' of Jerash/Gerasa: Balance of Knowledge and Ongoing Research THOMAS LEPAON, NIZAR TURSHAN, and THOMAS M. WEBER-KARYOTAKIS.....	131

<b>10</b>	<b>A View of Gerasa/Jerash from its Urban Periphery: The Northwest Quarter and its Significance for the Understanding of the Urban Development of Gerasa from the Roman to the Early Islamic Period</b> ACHIM LICHTENBERGER and RUBINA RAJA.....	143
<b>11</b>	<b>The Early Research History of Jerash: A Short Outline</b> EVA MORTENSEN.....	167
<b>12</b>	<b>Recent Italian Restoration Work and Excavation in the Sanctuary of Artemis 2008–14</b> ROBERTO PARAPETTI.....	187
<b>13</b>	<b>Working with Coins in Jerash: Problems, Solutions, and Preliminary Results</b> INGRID AND WOLFGANG SCHULZE.....	195
<b>14</b>	<b>Pourquoi Hadrien a-t-il passé l'hiver de 129/30 à Gerasa ?</b> JACQUES SEIGNE.....	207
<b>15</b>	<b>Evergetes and Restorers of the Gerasa <i>Μακέλλον/macellum</i></b> ALEXANDRA USCATESCU and MANUEL MARTÍN-BUENO.....	215
<b>16</b>	<b>Urbanism at Islamic Jerash: New Readings from Archaeology and History</b> ALAN WALMSLEY.....	241
<b>17</b>	<b>The Iconography of the Painted Cross Motif on Jerash Bowls</b> PAMELA M. WATSON.....	257
	<b>Index.....</b>	273

## 6. THE ARTEMIS TEMPLE RECONSIDERED

Massimo Brizzi  
Independent researcher

The Italian Mission in Gerasa, since its foundation, has employed most of the human and financial resources for carrying out the conservation and restoration of the Sanctuary of Artemis, the most important religious complex built in the heart of the ancient town. All conservation work has been preceded by rigorous research aimed at understanding the specific context before any intervention. In the area of the Sanctuary of Artemis, archaeological campaigns, surveys, and cataloguing have all taken place over almost forty years (Fig. 6.1). As a result, our knowledge of the various parts of the complex has greatly increased; however, a wide-ranging study correlating all the results into one historical narrative has yet to be completed.

In this paper, I deal with the problem of the incompleteness of the Antonine Temple of Artemis. This is a riddle often explained by economic issues that, on closer inspection, are not convincing. The new approach undertaken here, therefore, investigates the history of its construction through the study of the building sequence and reconsiders the outcome in the broader context of the sanctuary and the rest of the town, using the evidence from several previous, fragmentary investigations.

The new picture presented from the archaeological evidence paints a generation of citizens and worshippers who embraced the project for enlarging the sanctuary, nevertheless under unconcealed pressure from the Roman government. We see changing decisions throughout the process and a background of conservatism. Despite this early reluctance, the ordinary routine of the sanctuary seems to have flowed for about 250 years thereafter without any other substantial changes recorded.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gratitude is due to the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and all the people who, in one way or another, participated in or supported the activities of the Italian Archaeological Mission in

### *An Unfinished Temple*

The issue of the completion of the peristasis of the Temple of Artemis in Gerasa has already been introduced in the analysis of the monument presented by Fisher in 1938<sup>2</sup> and then examined in more detail by Parapetti in 1980.<sup>3</sup> The excavation inside the cella of the temple and along its western peristasis in 1994 and 1995 did not provide further information, either from the colonnade or the epistyle, that could change the picture of the situation as outlined in Parapetti's assessment.<sup>4</sup>

Currently, besides the eleven standing columns and all the sections from a twelfth, which fell from the north-eastern corner of the temple, another thirty-five column drums, totalling about 62 m of shafts, have been identified in the area of the upper terrace of the sanctuary, re-employed in different structures dated to the second half of the sixth century and later.<sup>5</sup>

All the column drums reused in the upper terrace have finished surfaces, the lewis holes, and frequent fractures along the perimeter of both bedding and top surfaces, characteristic of columns subjected to earthquake stress. The type of limestone, the size, the quality of the cutting,

---

Jerash. This paper is based on some results of my fieldwork since 1994 as a member of the Italian Mission directed by Roberto Parapetti, whom I wish to warmly thank for his helpful collaboration over the years. I also wish to thank Ted Kaizer, Jacques Seigne, and Ina Kehrberg for the fruitful discussions that arose during the preparation of this paper. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to Victoria Leitch who reviewed the English of the paper.

<sup>2</sup> Fisher and McCown 1931, 23–24; Fisher 1938a, 133–38.

<sup>3</sup> Parapetti 1980; 1983–84, 82–84.

<sup>4</sup> The excavations were directed by the author during the years 1994–95.

<sup>5</sup> More drums and bases of the columns could lie in the western and northern parts of the upper terrace, not yet investigated.