

The Archaeology and History of Jerash: 110 Years of Excavations

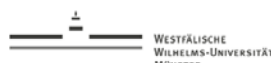
International conference held at

The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 35, Copenhagen, Denmark

Organised by Achim Lichtenberger and Rubina Raja

110 years ago, in 1907, the first excavations were undertaken in Jerash. It was the beginning of an intensive and continuous period of research in this major city of the Decapolis. Large-scale excavations were undertaken in the 1920s and 1930s after the institution of the mandate. These were followed by several international projects, most noteworthy the large initiative begun in the late 1970s, *Jerash Archaeological Project*. From the outset of excavations within the urban space of Jerash, the Greco-Roman city Gerasa with its public monuments along the cardo was one of the foci. Furthermore, Christian churches found special interest in the early years as well as in later periods. In the last decennia, research interests have shifted, moving away from the large public monuments to the areas beyond the city centre and chronological focus left behind the classical and early Christian periods and encompassed the later periods, in particular the Early and Middle Islamic periods. Also, the restoration and preservation of the monuments and the presentation to the public have become important issues but also challenges. These changed interests reflect current questions of archaeology, which have intensified the view of long-term transformations and the transitional periods as well as relations between city and hinterland.

In order to move the understanding of the development of Jerash forward, it is necessary to bring together researchers who have worked in Jerash over the last decades. Such a communal effort will bring the contextualisation of this important site further within a local, regional as well as wider framework of the Hellenistic, Roman, Islamic and Medieval worlds. It is important to view Jerash as a case study of a major city in the Levant and to further understand its place in cultural history. Therefore, a programme reflecting the research undertaken in Jerash over the last decades has been put together by the organisers in order to facilitate fruitful dialogue between the various missions working in Jerash earlier and today.



H. P. Hjerl Hansens Mindefondet for Dansk Palæstinaforskning

Thursday 2 March 2017

8:30 Registration and coffee (3rd floor)

Introduction (1st floor – meeting hall)

9:00 **Introduction**

Achim Lichtenberger and Rubina Raja

9:15 **Archaeological Research in Jerash and the Danish-German Northwest Quarter Project 2011-2016**

Achim Lichtenberger and Rubina Raja

Session 1: The landscape (Chair: Rubina Raja)

10:15 **The role of landscape in the occupational history of Gerasa and its hinterland**

Don Boyer

11:15 **Soils, sediments and environmental history: Introducing geosciences to archaeology at Jerash**

Genevieve A. Holdridge, Kristine Thomsen, Søren M. Kristiansen and Ian A. Simpson

12:15 Lunch

Session 2: Spatial organisation (Chair: Rubina Raja)

13:15 **Suburban life in southwest Jarash from the Roman to the Abbasid period**

Louise Blanke

14:15 **Urbanism at Islamic Jarash: New readings from archaeology and history**

Alan Walmsley

15:15 **The Northwest Quarter of Jerash: Outlines of a settlement history**

Georg Kalaitzoglou

16:15 Break

Session 3: Buildings in the cityscape (Chair: Achim Lichtenberger)

16:45 **The Artemis Temple in Jarash: Overreaching or resistance?**

Massimo Brizzi

17:45 **The 'great eastern baths' of Jerash/Gerasa: Balance of knowledge and ongoing research**

Thomas Lepaon

18:45 **A workshop transformed into a Thermopolium**

Daniela Baldoni

20:00 Dinner in town

Friday 3 March 2017

8:30 Coffee (3rd floor)

Session 1: Site management (1st floor – meeting hall) (Chair: Achim Lichtenberger)

9:00 **The challenges facing Jerash archaeological site development**
Ali Al Khayyat

10:00 **Recent Italian restoration work and excavation in the Sanctuary of Artemis**
Roberto Parapetti

11:00 Break

Session 2: Written records – archaeological finds (Chair: Achim Lichtenberger)

11:30 **Why did Hadrian spend the winter of 129/130 in Gerasa?**
Jacques Seigne

12:30 **Romans in Gerasa: A Greek inscription from the hippodrome excavations**
Pierre-Louis Gatier

13:30 Lunch

Session 3: An abundance of records (Chair: Rubina Raja)

14:30 **Tell Abu Suwwan, Jerash, Jordan: Neolithic skulls and rituals**
Maysoon al Nahar

15:30 **High pottery quantity: Some remarks on ceramics in context from the Danish-German Jerash Northwest Quarter Project**
Heike Möller

16:30 Break

17:00 **Working with coins in Jerash: Problems, solutions and preliminary results**
Ingrid and Wolfgang Schulze

18:00 **Forensic investigations of the Jerash glass**
Gry Barfod

19:00 Final discussion and publication process

20:00 Dinner in town