

Title: **The first archaeologist of Palmyra**

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**Abstract:** Archaeological exploration of Palmyra started in the second half of the 19th century. Earlier travelers usually limited their trip to documenting monuments or obtaining epigraphic records. The first attempt at regular excavations was undertaken in 1870 by captain Richard Burton, an experienced traveler in Oriental countries, who left quite a detailed record in a published account of the journey. The results of his pioneering endeavor in Palmyra are discussed briefly in the paper.

**Keywords:** Palmyra, digging, Richard Burton, Southwest Necropolis