

Title: **Palmyrenes in Hatra: evidence for cultural relations in the Fertile Crescent**

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Abstract: The article discusses the archaeological evidence for contacts between Palmyra and Hatra. In the past, it has been assumed frequently that these contacts were strong and of a commercial nature. The available evidence does not substantiate this assumption. Only one Palmyrene relief was found in a small shrine in the residential area of Hatra. From this one cannot conclude that there was a strong Palmyrene presence in the city, let alone that these Palmyrenes were merchants. This becomes especially clear when one compares the situation in Hatra with cities, such as Dura-Europos, where Palmyrenes figure prominently in the archaeological record.

Keywords: Hatra, Palmyra, Dura-Europos, trade