

Title: The morphology of the environs of Palmyra: ground relief, environment, roads

Author(s): Manar Hammad

Journal: *Studia Palmyreńskie* 12
*Fifty Years of Polish Excavations in Palmyra 1959–2009, International Conference,
Warsaw, 6–8 December 2010*

Year: 2013

Pages: 129–148

ISSN 0081-6787

Publisher: Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (PCMA UW),
Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (WUW)

www.pcma.uw.edu.pl - www.wuw.pl

Abstract: A morphological analysis of Palmyra city must be accompanied by a morphological examination of its immediate neighborhood: the hills or mountains that dominate her on the west and north (South Palmyrides and North Palmyrides), the saline depression (*sabkhat al Mouh*) on the southeast and the large flat steppe expanses descending slowly towards the Euphrates on the east. the city limits were defined in this context and so were the tracks that led to the city, crossing or bypassing it. A morphological study of Palmyra's urban environment (obstacles and lines of least effort) provides grounds for a reconstruction, taking into consideration recognizable archeological traces and tracks left by caravans, the military and less specifically identified travelers. special attention was devoted to tracking meeting places, which define by their grouping areas where caravans unloaded their cargo in a peri-urban zone that we propose to call a caravanoport

Keywords: Palmyra, steppe, geomorphology, urban environment, caravan tracks