Title: City and hinterland. Villages and estates north of Palmyra. New perspectives

Author(s): Jørgen Christian Meyer

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

Year: 2013
Pages: 269–286
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: D. Schlumberger’s excavations in the Jebel Chaar area north of Palmyra in the 1930s revealed several villages, which he dated to the first three centuries AD. Most scholars have classified the villages as pastoral holdings or centers of camel herding or horse breeding. A joint Norwegian-Syrian survey (2008–2011) north of Palmyra, combined with studies of satellite images, has shown a very high concentration of villages with water-catchment systems also in the mountains north of Palmyra. This implies a much more differentiated economy, including agriculture and horticulture, suggesting that the villages were an integrated part of Palmyra’s food supply. The chronology of the finds shows that an intensive exploitation of the Palmyrene hinterland continued into the Umayyad period.

Keywords: Palmyra, economy, agriculture, pastoral holdings, Jebel Chaar, food supply