

Title: Palmyra and the Far Eastern trade

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Abstract: The paper discusses the issue of Palmyrene trade and the city's standing in the long-distance trade of the Roman Empire. Although the city's involvement in exchange with other countries is undisputed and itineraries developed by the Palmyrene merchants for travel to the East have been studied in the past, relatively little is known about goods imported to Palmyra and their origin, as well as about cargo exported from or via Palmyra. The text of the famous Palmyrene Tariff lists only products exchanged on a local, inner-Roman level. The goods in foreign trade were taxed on the border and no document concerning such an exchange has survived, but some information on the subject can be gleaned from archaeological data from Palmyra itself as well as from indirect literary sources.

Keywords: Palmyra, Indian Ocean trade, silk trade, long distance trade, Roman Empire