

Michał Gawlikowski
University of Warsaw

Temples and sanctuaries in Palmyra

This paper will provide an overview of varying architectural solutions and forms of religious sculpture found in a Syrian oasis and caravan city from the 1st century BC till the 3rd century AD. by examining their meaning within the broader context of the Roman Near East. Four sanctuaries have been excavated in Palmyra to date. They share a similar approach to the Classical models, while embodying the distinct local traditions. This can be seen in representations of gods, privileging reliefs rather than sculpture in the round, as well as in the shape given to *adyta*, the inner shrines typical of Roman Syria, encased in temples outwardly following the Hellenistic models. The paper will deal especially with the sanctuary of Allat, an Arab goddess identified with Athena, excavated in the course of Polish excavations I have directed in the section of the ancient city known as Diocletian's Camp.