

LINKING AND ANNOTATING THE WOOD DIARIES



Sunoikisis Digital Classics
Spring 2019
Session 4

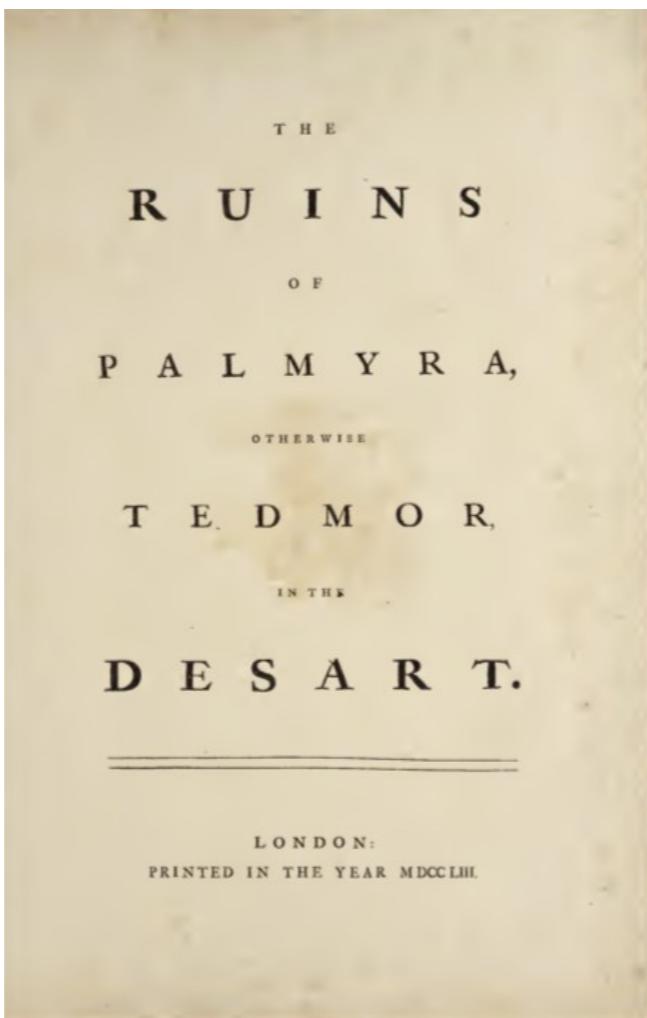
PALMYRA AND THE WOOD EXPEDITION



Palmyra in 2004 (Jen Baird)

ROBERT ‘PALMYRA’ WOOD

- Robert ‘Palmyra’ Wood is known for his ‘discovery’ of Palmyra in the 18th century, thanks to the lavish 1753 publication [The Ruins of Palmyra, otherwise Tedmor, in the Desart](#)



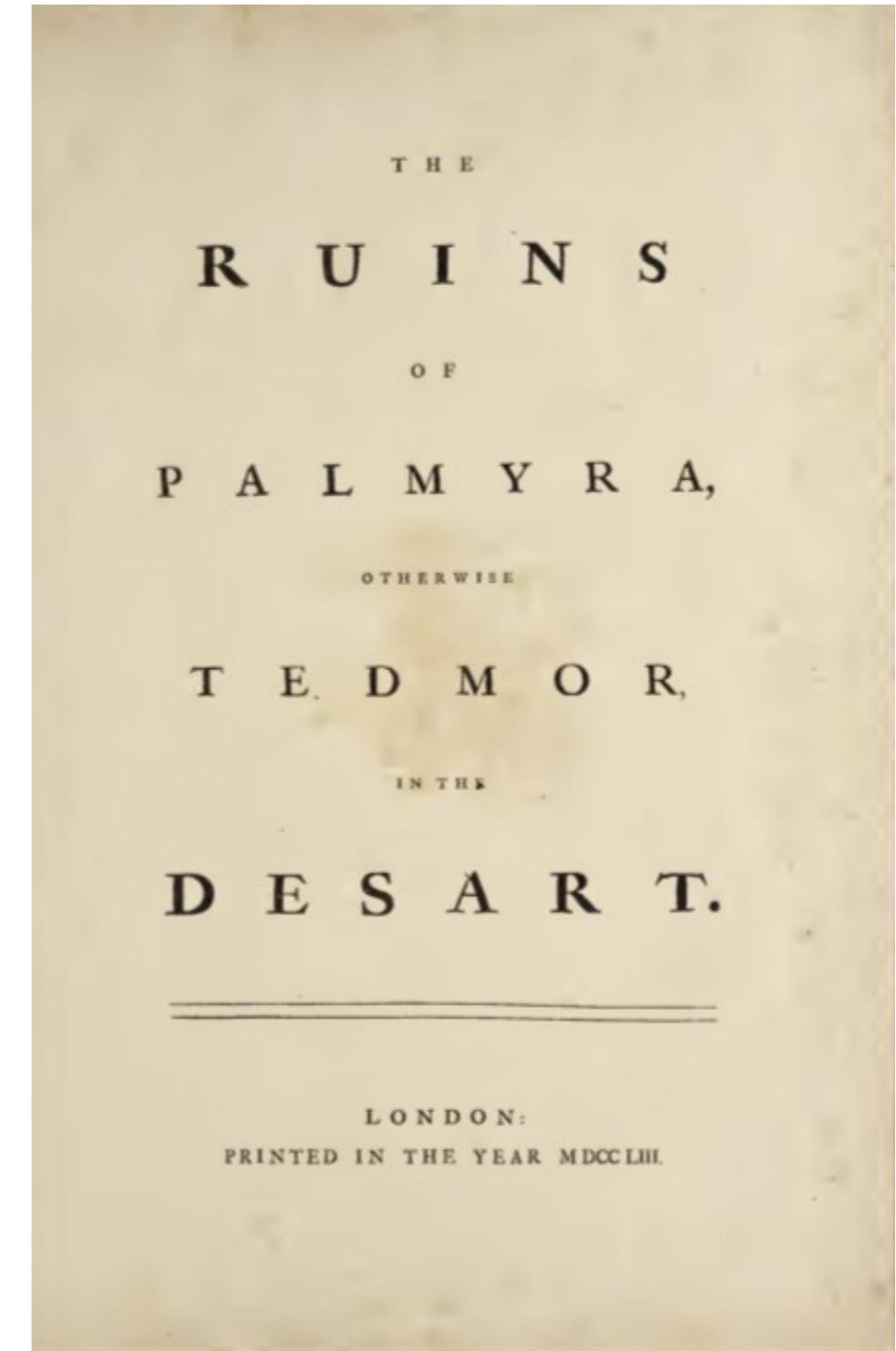
*Portrait of Robert Wood (1716-1771)
by Allan Ramsay (1755); NPG
4868*

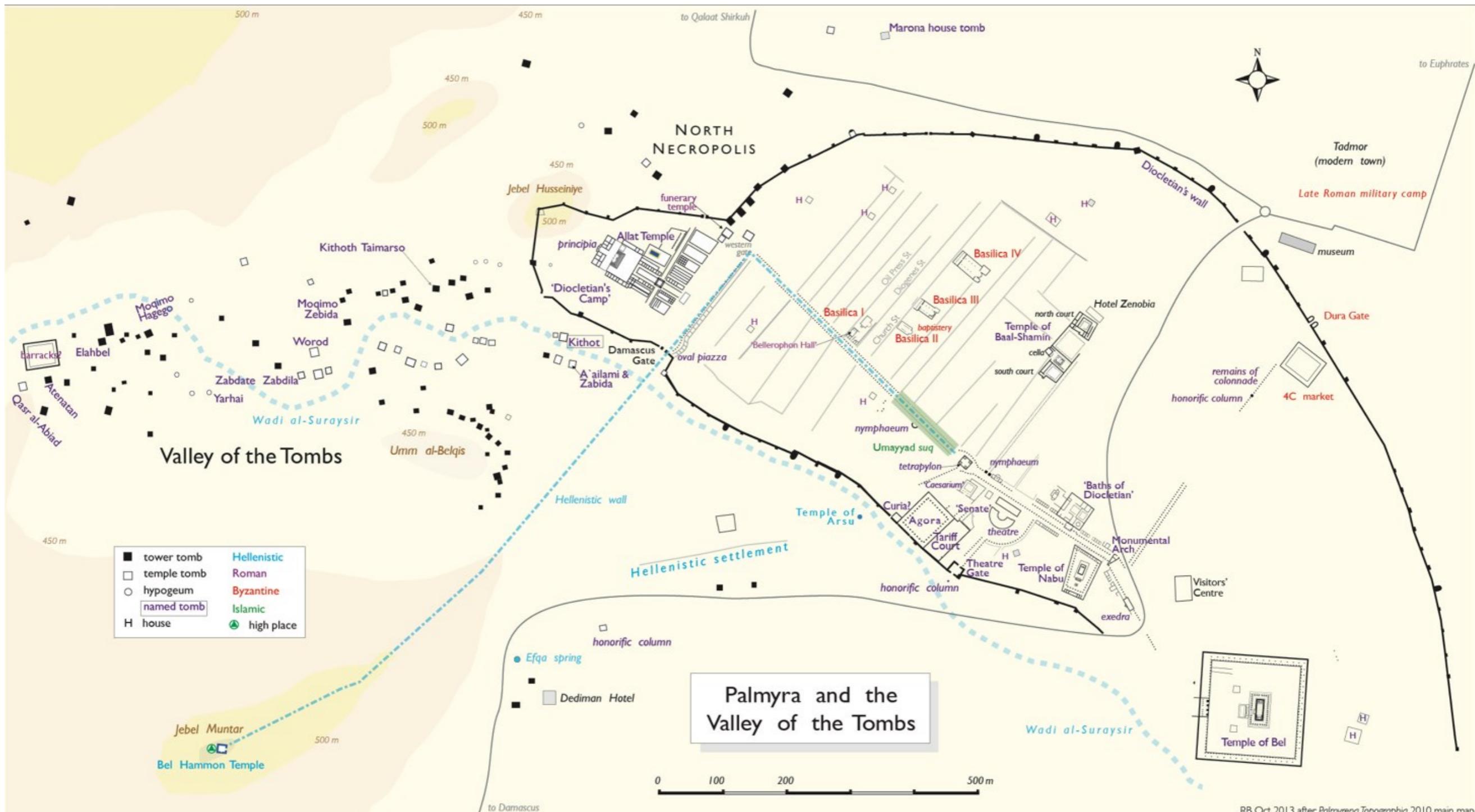


*James Dawkins and Robert Wood
Discovering Palmyra, by Gavin
Hamilton
(1758); [NG 2666](#)*

DIGITIZING AND ANNOTATING THE WOOD DIARIES

► [Wood collection](#) now held by the Joint Library of the ICS and the Hellenic and Roman Societies, having been donated by his family in 1926

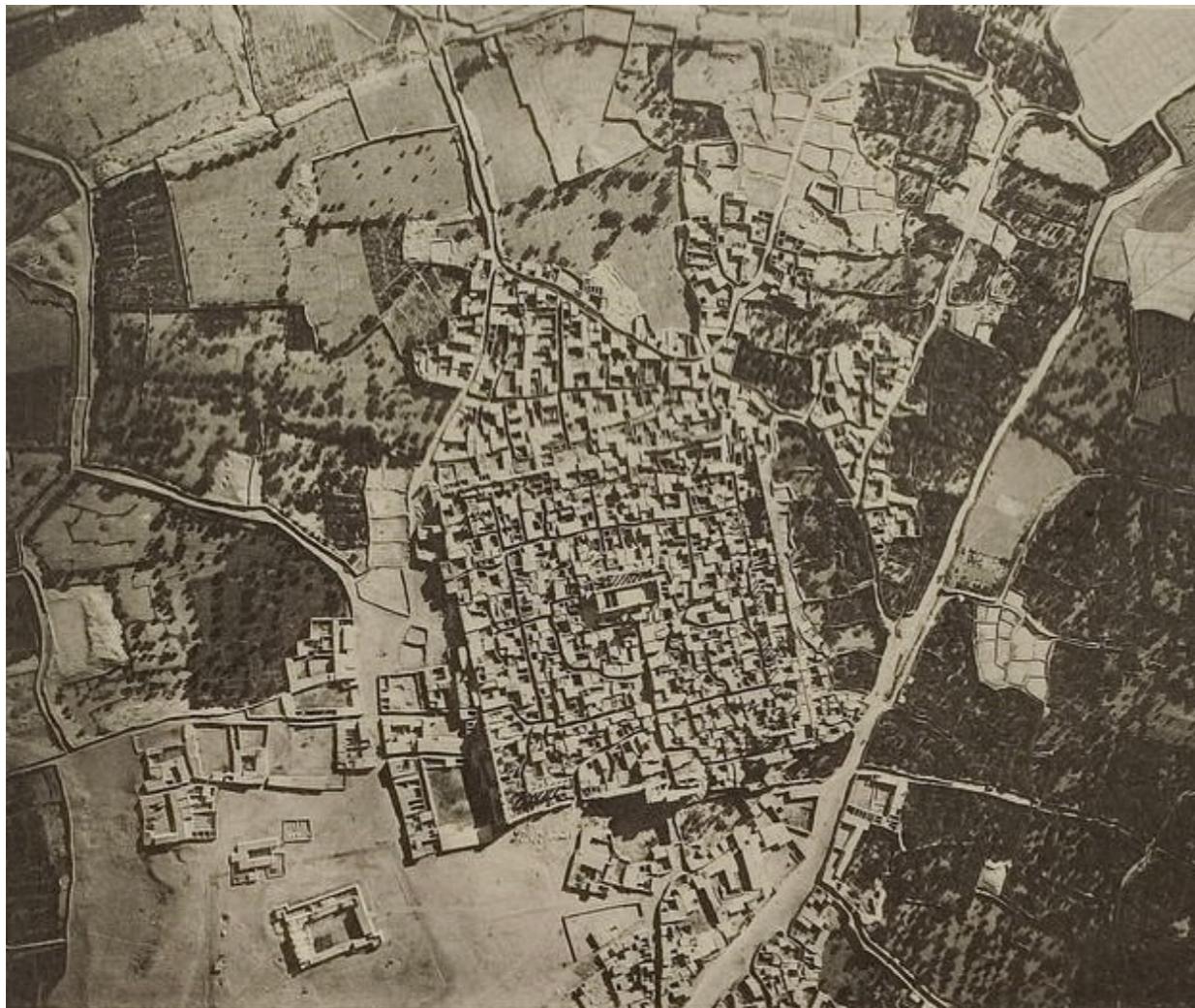




Palmyra's archaeology, Ross Burns

RB Oct 2013 after Palmyrena Topographia 2010 main map

ERASURE OF LOCAL POPULATIONS



Process of destruction by French of modern village: aerial view of the temple of Bel, 1929-1930 (Wiegand via Michael Press)

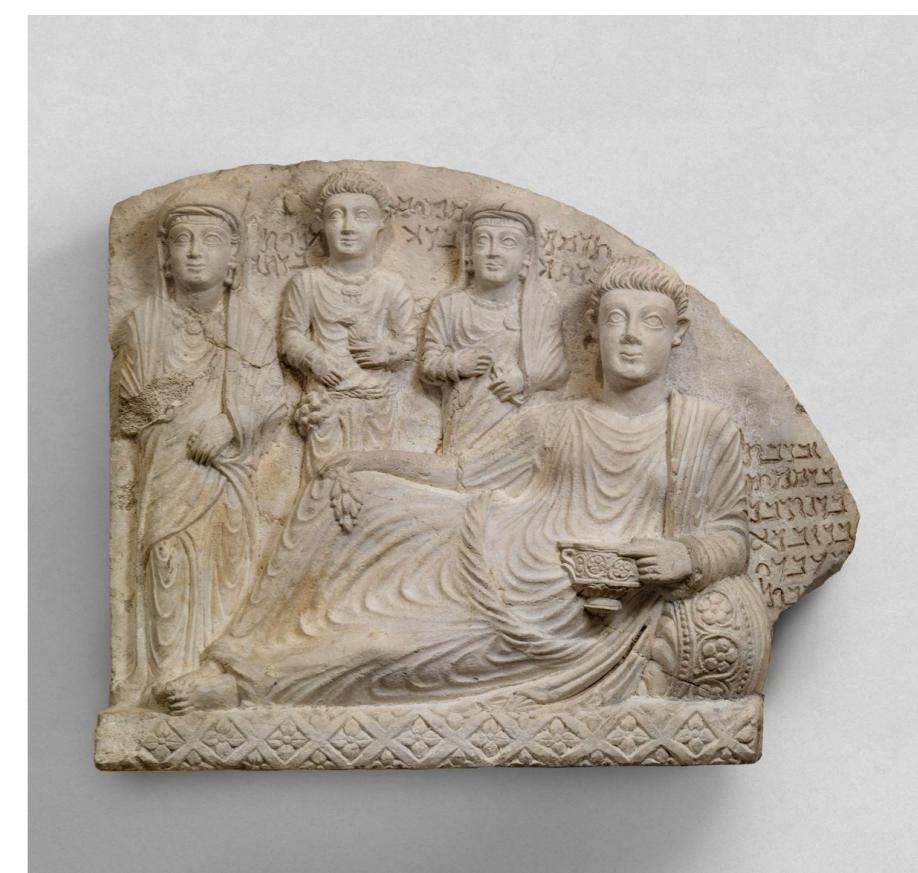
PALMYRENE DIASPORA



*British Museum,
London: Herta,
daughter of Ogilu, son
of Salmôi, wife of
Rabel, son of Yarhai
Yat. Purchased in 1885
from Levi Bros.*



*Ny Carlsberg
Glyptotek,
Copenhagen: A man,
Yedî'bêl, is depicted on
a grave relief.
Purchased in Syria (in
19th century?).*



*Metropolitan Museum
of Art, New York:
Zabdibol and his
children, “probably
from Palmyra”,
purchased in 1902.*

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Get started with Amazon Mechanical Turk

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While technology continues to improve, there are still many things that human beings can do much more effectively than computers, such as moderating content, performing data deduplication, or research. Traditionally, tasks like this have been accomplished by hiring a large temporary workforce, which is time consuming, expensive and difficult to scale, or have gone



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Outsourcing/crowdsourcing

- Microtasks > research activity
- Mechanical (transcription) or interpretive (identification)
- Don't require expertise, but AI can't do (yet?)
- Intricate vetting mechanisms (double-keying, moderation)
- Problems:
 - Usability
 - Motivation — gamification
 - Long tail
 - Reliability



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Bene advenisti in Vicipaediam,

liberam [encyclopaediam](#), ad quam augendam **omnes** invitantur.

Mercurii die 30 mensis Ianuarii 2019.

129 865 paginarum Latine scriptarum.

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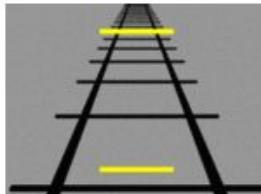
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Pagina mensualis

Perceptio est, qua veritatem externam cognoscimus. Quo modo veritatem percipere possimus, magna quaestio epistemologica est. Itaque perceptio, cum eventum mentale sit, non solum ad philosophiam mentis sed etiam ad psychologiam cognitivam ac studium cerebri pertinet.



Perceptioni duae partes esse videntur: **experiens sensibile** (vel per sensus



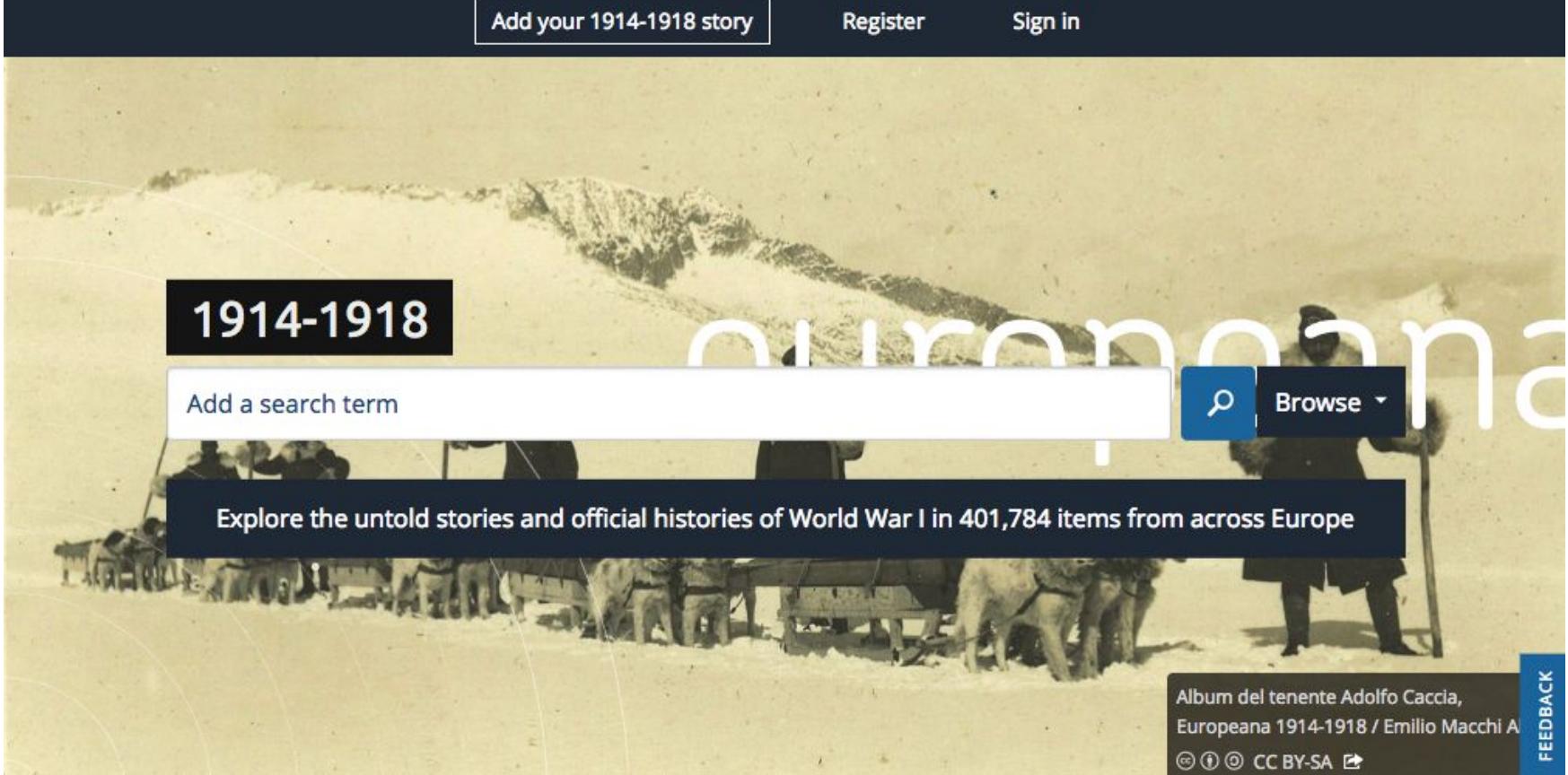
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Vicipaedia est opus commune quo [encyclopaediam libera interretialis](#) creatur. Tu quoque [adiuvare](#) potes. Ecce **taberna** nostra et **legatio**, in quibus poteris quamlibet linguam adhibere.

Praefatio – Porta – Translationes

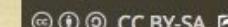
Eruditio Latina

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Album del tenente Adolfo Caccia,
Europeana 1914-1918 / Emilio Macchi A


Postcard to Palmyra

On 19th-21st April 2016 a three-day event was held in Trafalgar Square that saw the installation of a replica of part of the triumphal arch from the archaeological site of Palmyra, Syria. A team from the Department of Classics at Royal Holloway, University of London (who were not involved in the creation of the arch by the Institute of Digital Archaeology), led by 'Remembering the Romans' project leader Dr Zena Kamash, invited visitors to write postcards on which they were able to share any memories of the site and any thoughts, hopes and fears for its future, including whether it should be reconstructed or not.



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“What I know is...”

- Contributors bring unique knowledge/material
- Motivation comes from expertise/context
- Contributors should be credited
 - May become co-investigators
- Issues:
 - confidentiality/data protection
 - sensitivity
 - trust (both ways)
 - communication and sustainability

Vocabularies and Folksonomy



europ**e**ana
eagle project

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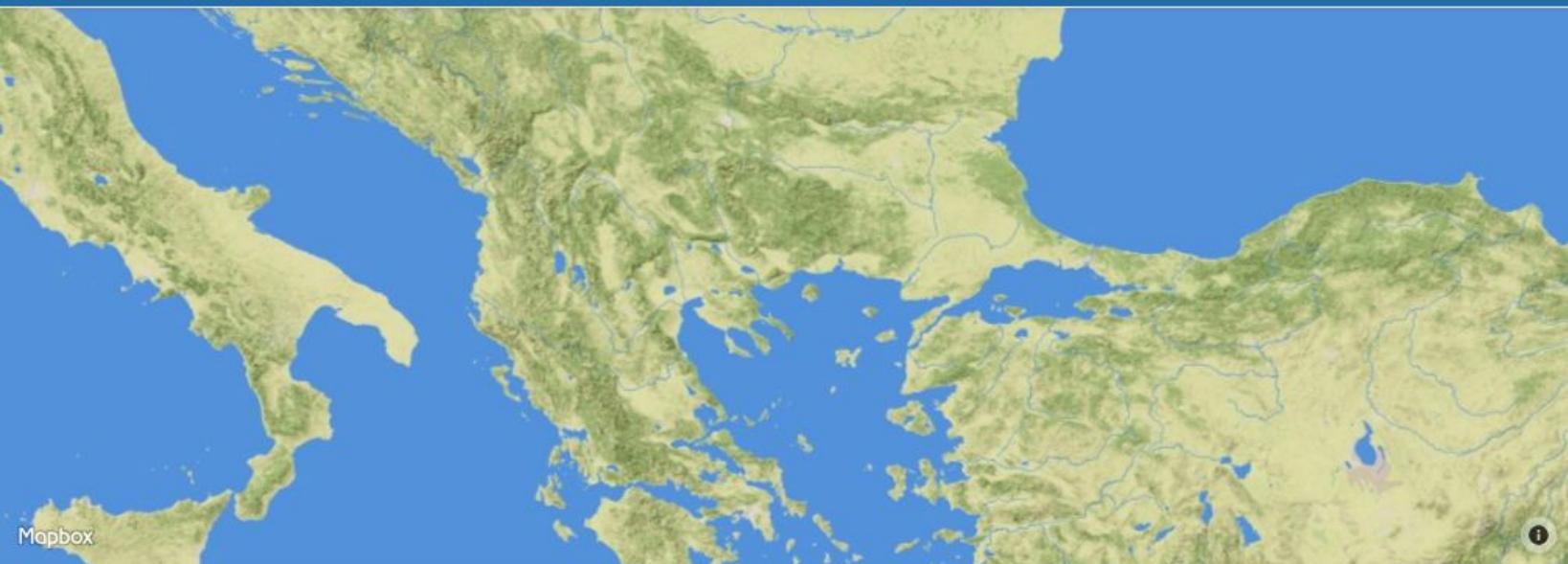
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Total number of terms	251
Total number of preferred labels	249
Total number of translated terms	275
Total number of equivalent and aligned terms	36
Total number of related terms	173
Total number of definitions	124

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 AND OR

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For the Find Term or Note field, you may use **AND** and **OR** (all in upper case) [e.g., 1) windsor chairs, 2) chairs OR rockers, 3) chairs OR rockers OR armchairs, 4) bow-back AND windsor, 5) windsor AND (rockers OR chairs), 6) (windsor OR boston) AND (rockers OR chairs)]. Wildcard is the asterisk (*); right truncation only. To find an exact match rather than a key word in the Find Term field, use quotes [e.g., "chairs"]. If you wish to search the term and note together, click on the buttons for AND or OR.



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Attested Persons

Sort by name Sort by date

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η ε Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ε Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ —

❶ Emdash (—) in a name indicates missing letters at the beginning (see "—" in alphabet bar), middle or end.

❷ Hyphen (-) indicates a hyphenated name.

❸ Square brackets [] indicate that the name is partially or completely restored in this inscription.

❹ Pilcrow (¶) links to a permanent web address for each person, for referencing in external prosopographical databases.

	English	Date	Relationships	Occupation>Title	Inscriptions
1 Θ—	F—	2nd half of 1Ind century – beginning of 1Ird century C.E.	father of —		III 43.2
1 Θαις	Thais	VI century C.E.	daughter of Anastasios daughter of Mary wife of Simon		[V 62.2.5]
1 Θε—	The—	IV-V centuries C.E.			V 277.5
1 Θεαγένης	Theagenes	565–574 C.E.			[V 7.7]
1 Θεαγένης	Theagenes	Late I - 1st half of 1Ind centuries C.E.	father of Skythas		III 369.1
1 Θεανένης	Theanenes	Probably not long after 10th July	son of Diogenes δογινός		III 22.20

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Folksonomy

- Advantages over controlled authority
 - Flexibility
 - Free-form, expressiveness
 - Unexpected or serendipitous content
 - No expertise or consultation of thesaurus required
- Drawbacks
 - Inconsistency
 - Error-prone
 - May not tag what project is hoping for
 - NLP or normalization scripts needed to exploit

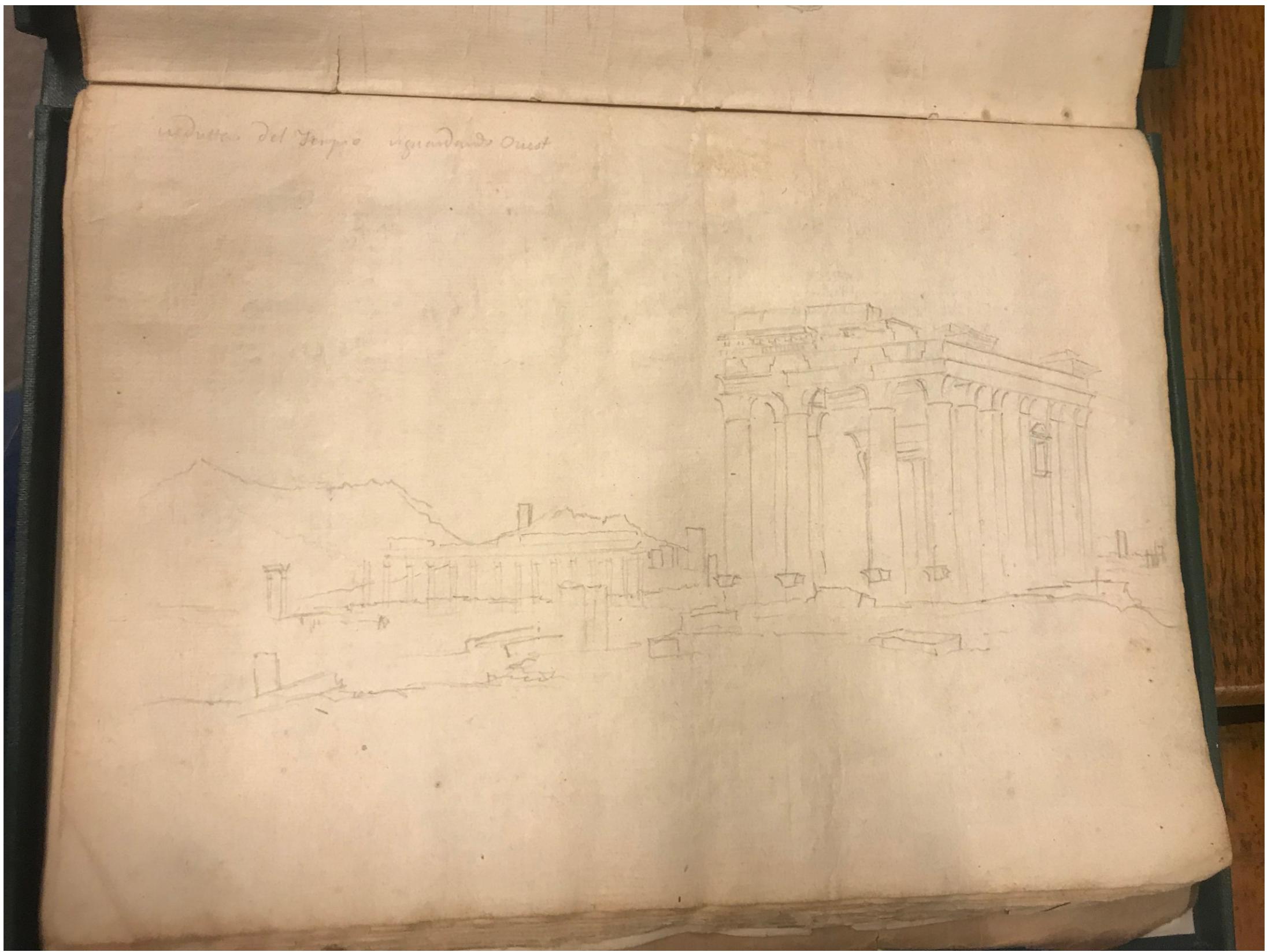
THE WOOD ARCHIVE

WOOD COLLECTION

- Collection includes a range of documents, including some diaries made on Wood's travels, and sketchbooks of Borra
- Today we're looking at two items in particular:
 - Volume 17. Scanned pages of Palmyra from an unbound paper fascicle sketchbook by Borra, 24 x 19 cm. (44 pages total, containing pencil sketches of Palmyra, Damascus etc)
 - Volume 18a: an extract on Palmyra by Robert Wood's daughter from her father's manuscripts, including some that have not come down to the present archive

Extracts from my Father's
Manuscripts

Tigre is a little square walled Town, about
and, two sides of it washed by the Sea, abo-
tuth of it are the Ruins of ancient Pe-
ople, consisting of a great many pieces of
fine marble so entirely scattered about
town for conjecturing what they formerly
form of a Theatre, (some of the arches
plain,) about the size of that at Per-
gamon, none of its ornaments left nor any



*Page from Borra's sketchbook
(Palmyra, Temple of Baal-Shamin)*

*Borra's
sketchbook,
alongside
completed
published
engraving*



*Borra's
sketchbook,
alongside
completed
published
engraving of the*



CHALLENGES OF DIGITISATION: WOOD

COLLECTION

► Material complexity

► Material fragility

► Unclear relationships and origins

► How might it be possible to digitise

 ► Materiality

 ► Scale

 ► The shape of the archive, archival context

POSSIBILITIES OF ANNOTATION

- Is it possible to annotate-in materiality? Later bindings, additions, emendations, palaeography...
- Public engagement: how might be bring more people “into” the archive through annotation?

POSSIBILITIES OF ANNOTATION

- Can we use annotation to de-center Western perspectives and reimagine archival spaces?
- Interrogate regimes of value?
- Foreground alternate voices and responses/multivocality?
- Use annotations to analyse complex collections and create new research questions/new studies of Palmyra (extending temporarily: in the 18th century when Wood visited, or the earlier archaeological material he recorded, or the reception of that material)

FURTHER READING ON THE WOOD COLLECTION

Butterworth, J. A. “Library Supplement: The Wood Collection.”
The Journal of Hellenic Studies 106 (1986): 197–200.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/629660>.

Hutton, C. A. “The Travels of ‘Palmyra’ Wood in 1750-51.”
The Journal of Hellenic Studies 47.1 (927): 102–28.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/625255>.