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Romel Gharib, Julien Aliquot

► To cite this version:

Romel Gharib, Julien Aliquot. Roman antiquities from al-Qunayyah, Jordan: an addition. *Ḥawliyyat dā irat al-ātār al-'āmma* = Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, 2021, 60, pp.665-667. halshs-03725455

HAL Id: halshs-03725455

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-03725455>

Submitted on 17 Jul 2022

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ROMAN ANTIQUITIES FROM AL-QUNAYYAH, JORDAN: AN ADDITION

Romel Gharib and Julien Aliquot

A series of Roman antiquities from al-Qunayyah were presented by us in the previous issue of the Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (Gharib, Aliquot and Weber-Karyotakis 2017). The purpose of this note is to complete our report with the publication of a newly found altar. The monument was incidentally discovered in the autumn of 2017, when clearing an old house in the part of the village located on the right bank of Wādī al-Zarqā', *i.e.* in the area where the other antiquities were found earlier. As a preventive measure, it was moved east of the village to the summit of neighbouring Jabal al-Muṭawwaq. It is an altar 130cm in height, 60.5cm in width and 61cm in depth (Figs. 1-2), made of hard limestone and composed of a nearly cubic shaft (48×43×42cm) placed on a moulded base and topped by a 52cm high crowning formerly adorned with stylised leaves at each of its four corners. The top surface is carved in the shape of a large and shallow cup, which suggests that the monument was used to pour libations and to offer sacrifices. A short Greek dedication is engraved on a face of the shaft in 2.5-3cm rounded letters (Fig. 3). It reads as follows:

Ανουνος [Ου]αελ-
ου εὐξάμενος
ἀνέθηκεν.

Translation: “Anounos, son of Ouaelos, dedicated (this altar) in fulfilment of a vow.”

The donor's name and the name of his father are Hellenised Semitic names. Both were common in Provincia Arabia under Roman rule (for the first, *e.g.* IGLS 13/2, no. 9816; 14, nos. 50,

418; 15, 246, with Wuthnow 1930: 23; Harding 1971: 206, s.v. *hnn*; for the second, IGLS 13/2, no. 9869; 14, no. 178; 15, no. 212; Gatier 1998: 400, no. 107; *I. Jordanie* 5/1, nos. 13, 349, 608, with Wuthnow 1930: 91; Harding 1971: 632, s.v. *w'l*; Sartre 1985: 225; Negev 1991: 23; Sar-



1. Inscribed altar from al-Qunayyah: front side (photo Jean-Baptiste Yon 2018).



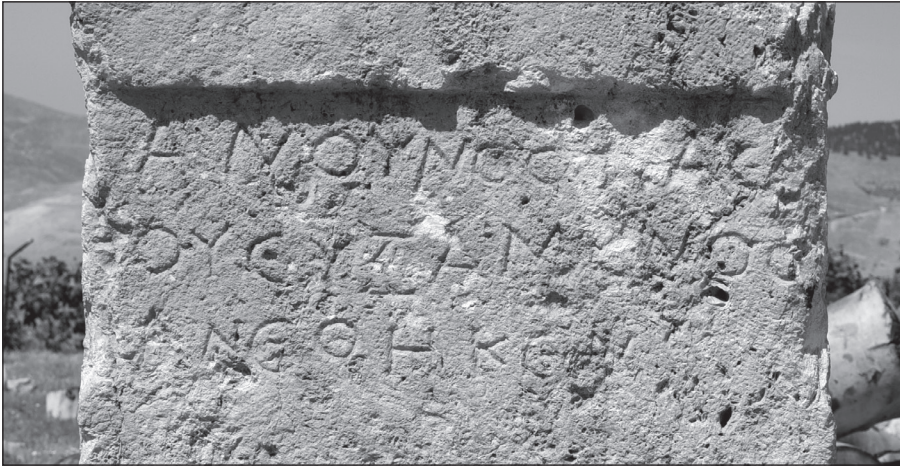
2. Inscribed altar from al-Qunayyah:
back side (photo Jean-Baptiste
Yon 2018).

tre 2007: 224-225). The shape of the letters (especially the epsilon and theta with a dot instead of the middle bar, and the small theta above the line) goes well with a dating in the first or second century AD.

According to its provenance, the altar probably comes from the same place of worship as the inscribed altar published in our first report. This new discovery encourages further research in al-Qunayyah. It now seems more than likely that the place was the site of a rural sanctuary in Roman times.

Romel Gharib
Director of the Zarqa Governorate Antiquities Directorate
Zarqa, Jordan
besan_g@yahoo.com

Julien Aliquot
CNRS, UMR 5189 HiSoMA
Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée
Lyon, France
julien.aliquot@mom.fr



3. Inscribed altar from al-Qunayyah: Greek dedication (photo Jean-Baptiste Yon 2018).

Abbreviations

I. Jordanie: Inscriptions de la Jordanie (IGLS 21). Paris; Beirut.

IGLS: Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie. Paris; Beirut.

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