

Our work there concerned two different monuments located a few meters from each other at the western end of the site: the Atenatan tower, the oldest dated in Palmyra, and a huge rectangular complex, identified last year and mentioned already in my last report.

The tower of Atenatan, built in 9 B.C. by Kohailu and Hairan for their father Atenatan, remained for years in a state of uncertain equilibrium, large parts of its walls on the brink of falling apart. A team from the Palmyra Museum has now consolidated the monument as high as was feasible and has helped us to clear all accessible chambers. Precise plans and sections have been prepared (Fig. 1), many *loculi* cleared, and steps taken to close both doors of the tower with iron grills. The contents of chambers and *loculi* were systematically sifted, thus recovering even minute artifacts from the fill.

Certainly the main find there was an intact burial in a *loculus* on the third floor, somehow overlooked by robbers. As far as I know, this is the first instance in Palmyra of an unviolated burial found in a funerary tower under controlled conditions. After opening the *loculus*, we found a well preserved mummy of a man. It was carefully removed and transported to the Museum, where it is already on display.

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excavating season covered five weeks of work, from September 17 to October 23. I would like to thank the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums for all the facilities offered and to assure of our standing concern for the site of Palmyra and its preservation. As usual, we owe a lot to our long-time friends of the Palmyra Museum. Khaled As'ad and his associate Ali Obeid Taha should feel assured of our appreciation of their efficiency and sense of purpose.