

BOOK REVIEW

JERASH, A Frontier City fo the Roman East, by Rami Khouri. 144 p., 38 pls. 21 figs. 3 maps. Longmann: London and New York (1986), paper, published price £5.95.

This excellent guide-book is from the pen of the Jordanian journalist and writer Mr. Rami Khouri. He is well-known to all those who are interested or involved in the archaeology of Jordan. For several years now, he has been active in the publication of reports covering the various aspects of archaeological projects carried out in this country, both in national and international press. Mr. Khouri's earlier book on the Jordan Valley, which was published recently, proved to be one of the best written on this subject.

The reader will find this new guide-book not only refreshingly different from all previous similar guide-books both in scope and method, but also because of its use of much recently discovered archaeological material in this Roman city, and can learn something more than any one book on Jerash can teach. This guide-book on Jerash is indeed distinguished for two main aspects. Firstly, it is a thoroughly researched and perceptive sketch of the most recent archaeological investigation carried out in this ancient city, and secondly, it gives us an historical survey of other similar cities in the area with which Jerash is

compared.

The utility of this guide-book for purposes of reference is greatly enhanced by the fact that it contains a selected bibliography of books and articles on Jerash, a glossary of some thirty-two basic terms often used in the description of Classical and Roman architecture, and a general index. An up-to-date city plan and many other excellent graphic illustrations are also included.

Mr Khoury's guide-book on Jerash is indeed a handsome record of the animation and diversity of a rich Roman provincial city in which the art and architectural images survive to link the past with the present and beyond to the future. It is a warmly welcomed guide-book, and is strongly recommended for tourist, student and scholar. Mr. Khouri is to be greatly congratulated on his achievement. Many thanks are also extended to Ms. Margaret Marshall of Longman's Arab World Division for being so kind to provide us with a review copy of the above mentioned title.

Adnan Hadidi

