

CAPInv. 620: t[g]ry' klhwn dy bmdynt bbl

i. Geographical area	The Near East and Beyond
ii. Region	Syria
iii. Site	Palmyra

i.	Full name (original language)																	[]	(IGLS XVII.1 16, l. 3-4)
ii.	Full name (transliterated)	<i>t[ɡ]ry' klhwn dy bmdynt bbl</i>																	

i. Date(s)	24 AD
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ii. Name elements	Geographical:	Babylon
	Professional:	"All the merchants in the city of Babylon"

i. Source(s) Note	IGLS XVII.1 16 (AD 24) See also PAT 1352
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Honorary inscription with bilingual Aramaic-Greek text. The Aramaic text is followed by a shorter Greek version that has only the Demos of the Palmyrenians honour Maliku; according to Yon 2012, it was added later, on a different occasion.

i.c. Physical format(s)	Base of a column
ii. Source(s) provenance	Temple of Bel at Palmyra

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The inscription was found in the temple of Bel and refers positively to that structure. This suggest worship by the group.
Deities worshipped	Bel
iv. Honours/Other activities	The group has dedicated a statue to Maliku, a member of the Bene Komare, a) because he has supported them, and b) because he has helped to build the temple of Bel.

XII. NOTES

iii. Bibliography	Yon, J.-B. (2012), <i>Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie XVII.1: Palmyre</i> . Beyrouth.
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XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	Assessing the degree of merchant-organization at Palmyra is difficult. In general, I have excluded from the inventory the considerable number of inscriptions set up by the members of caravans for their respective <i>synodiarches</i> . These groups were probably united solely by the shared experience of travelling. In this case, however, nothing militates against seeing the "merchants in the city of Babylon", who honour a benefactor of both themselves and the city, as a professional association. The support given to the merchants seems to have surpassed a one-time event such as leading a caravan.