

THE TEMPLE OF ESHMUN

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25

Amongst the main discoveries of Greater Sidon, is of course Eshmun, already extensively discussed in numerous publications. The aim of this short article is simply to place Eshmun alongside the equally important discoveries of Greater Sidon

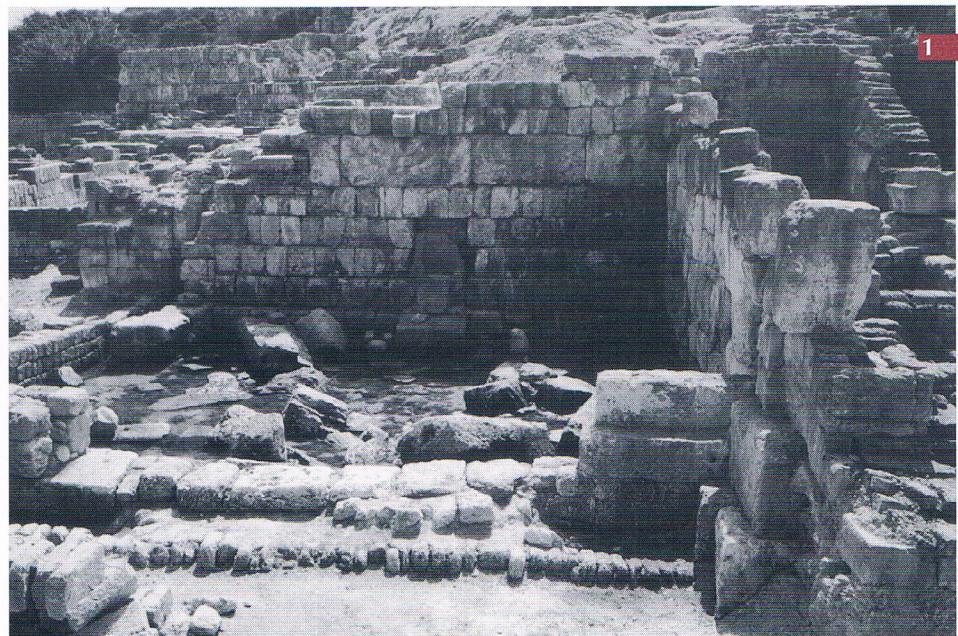
1924-1980

Excavations of the Temples of Eshmun by Maurice Dunand

Between 1924 and 1980 excavations in Sidon centered on the temple of Eshmun, Sidon's god of healing. Maurice Dunand, in charge of the excavations at Byblos succeeded Théodore Macridi Bey¹ and Georges Contenau² as head of excavations. He was put in charge of exploring the orange groves of Bostan esh-Sheikh rising on the southern bank of the el-

Awaly river to the north of the city³. The monumental podium of a temple built by Eshmounazar II and his mother, Amo'shtart during the Persian period was brought to light. The building of the temple was first mentioned in the twenty-two-line Phoenician inscription engraved on the lid of Eshmounazar's stone sarcophagus discovered in 1855 in Magharat Abloun (fig. 4, p. 18). Work conducted by Rolf Stucky⁴ resumed in 1996.

1 The throne of Astarte in the temple of Eshmun (Photo D. Griffiths)



1 Th.-C. Macridi, *Le temple d'Echmoun à Sidon*, 1904, Paris.

2 G. Contenau, "Deuxième mission archéologique à Sidon (1920). Les sanctuaires sondages au temple d'Echmoun", *Syria*, 5, 1924, p. 90.

3 M. Dunand, "Recherches archéologiques à Bostan ech-Cheikh, près de Saida", *Syria*, VII, 1926, p. 1-7; M. Dunand, "Nouvelles inscriptions phéniciennes du temple d'Echmoun à Bostan-ech-Cheikh, près Sidon", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, XVIII, 1965, p. 105-109; M. Dunand, "La piscine du trône d'Astarté dans le temple d'Echmoun à Sidon", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, XXIV, 1971, p. 19-25.

4 R. A. Stucky, "Le sanctuaire d'Echmoun à Sidon", *National Museum News*, 7, 1998, p. 4.