APPENDIX G

PALMYRENE HONORIFIC INSCRIPTIONS

Appendix G enumerates the chronological order of Palmyrene honorific inscriptions as far as possible. Usually they are attached to socles of statues, to consoles and to columns. The majority were found along the ‘Great’ and ‘Transversal Colonnades’ and in the *peristylia* of the temples of Bel and Baalshamin and the ‘agora’. Whilst most of the statues are lost, their epigraphical reference still remains.

Many inscriptions are bilingual: Palmyrene-Greek. Generally, the Palmyrene text is preferred, except when it is badly damaged and the Greek counterpart is well preserved. Otherwise the script indicates that the text is only handed down in Greek.

The honorific inscriptions basically divide into two major categories. The first and larger group comprises those including the formula *lyqr* and/or one of its Greek equivalents (List A). In the second the formula *lyqr* and/or one of its Greek equivalents is absent, but these inscriptions are designated as ‘honorific’ on account of their archaeological and/or epigraphical context (List B). Certain phrases, e.g. *because he pleased them (in every respect)*, *bdyl dy špr lhwn (bkl sbw)*, suggest a honorific character. However, there are two different categories of inscriptions that do not have the formula *lyqr*. The formula may be lacking either due to the state of preservation and in these instances an “N” in the column “Com” indicates that the inscription is incomplete, or because it simply was not used.

Unlike ‘*l hyy*-inscriptions, *lyqr*-inscriptions are distinctive, albeit in stereotyped phrases, for motivating the dedicator’s act. However, they are only used for honouring human beings. As a rule deities are implicitly honoured since they act as recipients. Nevertheless, two inscriptions explicitly honour divinities. One originates from Khirbet Abu Duhur in the north-western Palmyrena. It reports the dedication of a relief *in honour of* a minor deity called Malka, *the Good and Rewarding for the life of* the dedicators themselves (*PNO*, no. 57).

In general, inscriptions from the Palmyrena and peripheral areas often are distinguished by a lack of conventionality. *CIS II*: 3955, originating from the western parts of the city proper, expounds about
building-activities in honour of Shamahs and Allat and Rahim, the good gods.¹

SIGLA AND ABBREVIATIONS: KEY

Horizontal arrangement:
InsNum = number of the inscription
Prov = provenance of the inscription; the find-spot
Date = date of the inscription
Com = completeness of the inscription
B = bilingual inscription
Dedicator(s) = those who honour
Beneficiaries = the honoured

Perpendicular arrangement:
InsNum: C.3926 = CIS II, no. 3926 (numbers vary according to inscription)
III.24 = Inv.III, no. 24; Roman figure = Volume; Arabic figure = number of inscription
Sey321 = Seyrig (1939) + page number
Can.25 = Cantineau (1930) + page number
SCa186 = Cantineau (1933) + page number
Can350 = Cantineau (1936) + page number
SyC.75 = Cantineau (1938) + page number
Gaw100 = Gawlikowski (1973) + page number
RSP161 = RSP + number inscription
Ing106 = Ingholt (1936) + page number
IS279 = Ingholt (1932) + page number
Du.50 = Dunant, no. 50 (numbers vary according to inscription)
DFD37 = DFD + page number
Prov: Bel = found in or in the vicinity of the temple of Bel

¹ According to 1.4 the honoured person’s brother is called Lishamsh. Since CIS II: 3978 mentions Lishamsh and Zebaida as dedicators of a hmn’ and an altar to Shamash, the god of their father’s house, the person honoured here may be Zebaida son of Malku son of Yedibel son of Nesha also known as Bar Abdibel who belongs to the Beni Migrat (CIS II: 3978). The honouring agent may, as a consequence, be his tribe. Possibly, the dedication for the life of the dedicators themselves and the life of their brothers and sons (CIS II: 3978) contributed to the erection of the statue (CIS II: no. 3955). Simultaneously, this means that dedications were perceived to be executed in honour of the divine recipient whose status was enhanced in addition to that of the dedicatar.