

Response to Round 2, dear Mrs Mazzilli,

I am very pleased that the complex work and the completely new offered location of Raphana, including the unusually large number of military buildings, has met with the general approval and interest of you as one of the reviewers. I hope that the now offered revision fulfils your made remarks, since in my opinion the location and its possible future research will become special importance.

The revision was made by two instances, a native speaking English scientist and a professional proofreading service.

Because i was unfortunately not able to contact you direct by several ways, i will give some answers to your review on this way.

Of course, I have also addressed Mr. R. Palermo's comments again, even though I had already explained the different resolutions of the satellite images in the march22-version that has been checked in round 2 (explicitly at page 4, now 5 and in detail again on page 20, now 22) .

I think that with the new explanations to Mr. Palermo (answer to round 2), this is again more clearly explained, but I do not want to integrate this into the work in its completeness!

However, some of the points are possible misunderstandings and it is not on me to criticize you, especially also gave many important and valuable tips. Points 1-4 were partly understandable from my side and I have tried to follow them. Point 1, 3 and 4 of your review-remarks are now revised and extended. Point 2, the remark to Chapter 3, on my mind the content cannot be better offered in a table. The chronological timeline shows the construction and the growing of made false interpretations within the analysed literature. In addition, a table for Instance to Guthe's book of 1918 and Dussards Book of 1927 or in extreme to Fossey's book of 1897 has no advantage, alone from the amount of different contents to every book. Naturally this is also a little bit a matter of opinion.

The most important remarks at points 5 and 6 with the real professional and topographical content are unfortunately not comprehensible for me. Both references cited refer exclusively to the southern, the Jordanian part of the Via Nova Traiana at a maximum up to Bosra as the northernmost point, in the south of Syria.

However, this road also exists north of Bosra to Damascus and beyond. For this reason, are the mentioned papers of the honoured colleague, David Kennedy, although interesting, not affecting the research area in any way.

I think the mentioned "Banatea" by you, is the Area on one hand and the city of Batanea on the other, but these are also correct set in the Map, like the "Trachones". Especially the last one, I cannot understand.

At several Pages 7-8, 21-25 and 31(version 2,now slightly shifted), the dividing in two trachones and the original ancient mention of these two are explicitly discussed and declared. As I will show you, not only the old topographical maps, even one of the world wide referenced works within this thematic, the "Barrington Atlas", mentions both Trachones!

Therefore, all the localizations and locations remarked by you in round 2 are set correct, as I will show by references in attachments.

However, I do not want to include these now made justifications as part of the published answers to "round 2", thats why i have asked mr Doyon to cut that out. I think this is not very collegial to show the others their mistakes. Likewise, they are not part of a potential extension that belongs in the work, as this would only confuse.

At last, the Map created by me has an extension of about 40000 km², unfortunately because of that, cutouts were necessary. The regions set in another colour and in italic have a digital point in the centre of the suggested area. This is documented at the legend of the map. In addition, cities has a single point even today, even if the extension of them is much wider. Especially for old topographic or administrative regions in ancient

times, no one of us has the exact limitations. All maps of this kind are just interpretations of the ancient reality. If I would coloured whole region, any of them different, than other information's cannot be given clear.

So, I beg you in this case for your understanding and trust in me, also as a geographer and surveyor with 30 years of experience. Representations of this type and maps are always compromises, depending on the scale and the content to be represented.

Thanks in advance for your time and understanding

Regards from Germany, Jens Kleb

Answers and Attachments to Points 5 and 6 of Mrs. F. Mazzilli's Review Round 2, in Detail.

In principle, a distinction should be made between the thematic, theological and political maps in contrast to the maps verified by research trips and surveys and by archaeological finds. Errors have crept into the updated literature over the years, ignoring the evidences and found locality Names of the former geographers and mixing biblical names with later landscape names. Thus the biblical Bashan, which generally includes the entire area east of the Sea of Galilee including Golan, Jedur, Nukra, Auranitis, Hauran Mountains, Trachonitis and Batanaea, has been equated with the Batanaea Landscape in various literature. The details of the maps show that this is not geographically correct. There is no evidence in real geographic maps, that any tract of other areas was named Batanea. Even the locations, supported by archaeological finds, which were mentioned in ancient literature in connection with Batanea are only located in this areas (of the geographical maps). See A.Schalit (King Herodes, Fig3, 1969). Originally this mixture of the biblical Bashan and the Greek Basanitis, originated from which the typical volcanic rock probably got its name (basanites lithos). Only some scientists and neither old nor new pure topographic maps has the Batanaea also been mixed up, with the entire region, although all geographical indications are clearly between the Trachones and the Hauran Mountains. The position in the Jedur area possibly the Ituraea of the elders (i.e. between Golan and Ledja), which is often used today for the "Basantis and Batanea" together, also does not appear logically plausible given this corruption of names. If the name is supposed to refer to the volcanic rocks, why should these lava flows between the Trachones coming from the volcanoes of the Hauran be excluded?

Naturally we all doesn't know the real ancient extent of the Areas, therefore i have chosen only another Typo and Colour. I made this at a point in the middle of the suggested Area, as this seems geographical correct.

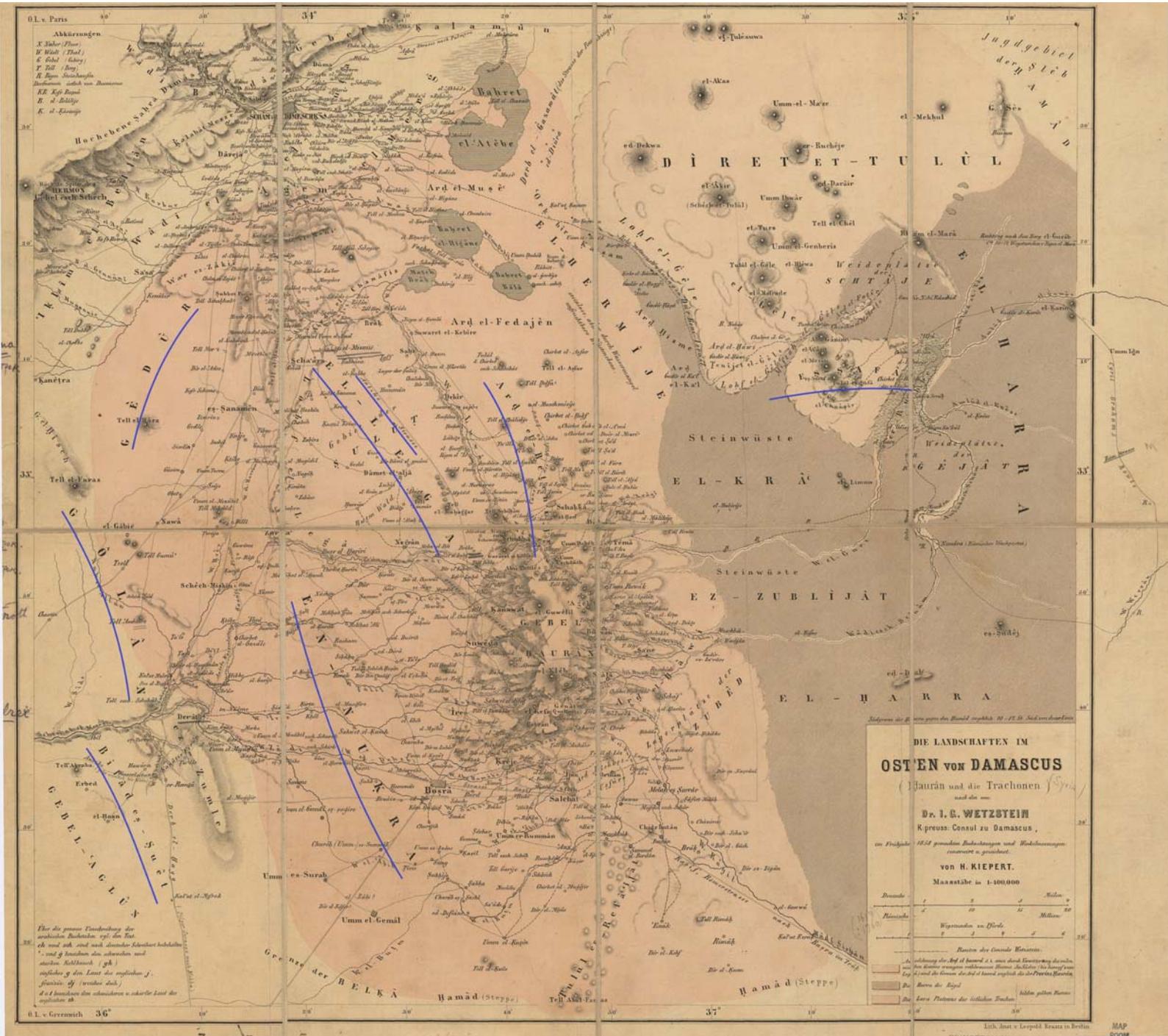
Regarding the Via nova Traiana, please also see the books by J.M.Dentzer (Hauran I,p124,paris 1985) , T.Fahd (L'Arabie préislamique,p490-491,Strassbourgh 1987) , Digital Atlas of the Roman Empire (DARE) see attached image , R. Wenning (Die Dekapolis und die Nabataeer, p 20,ZDPV110 1994), or Sarantis/Christie (War and Warfare in Late Antiquity by J.Howard-Johnston, p864, Brill 2013).

With regard to the two Trachones, I refer to the numerous old map excerpts, the explicit text of my work on this generally recognized localization, Strabo's original description and the explanations of R. Talbert (Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, Map 69, Princeton 2000).

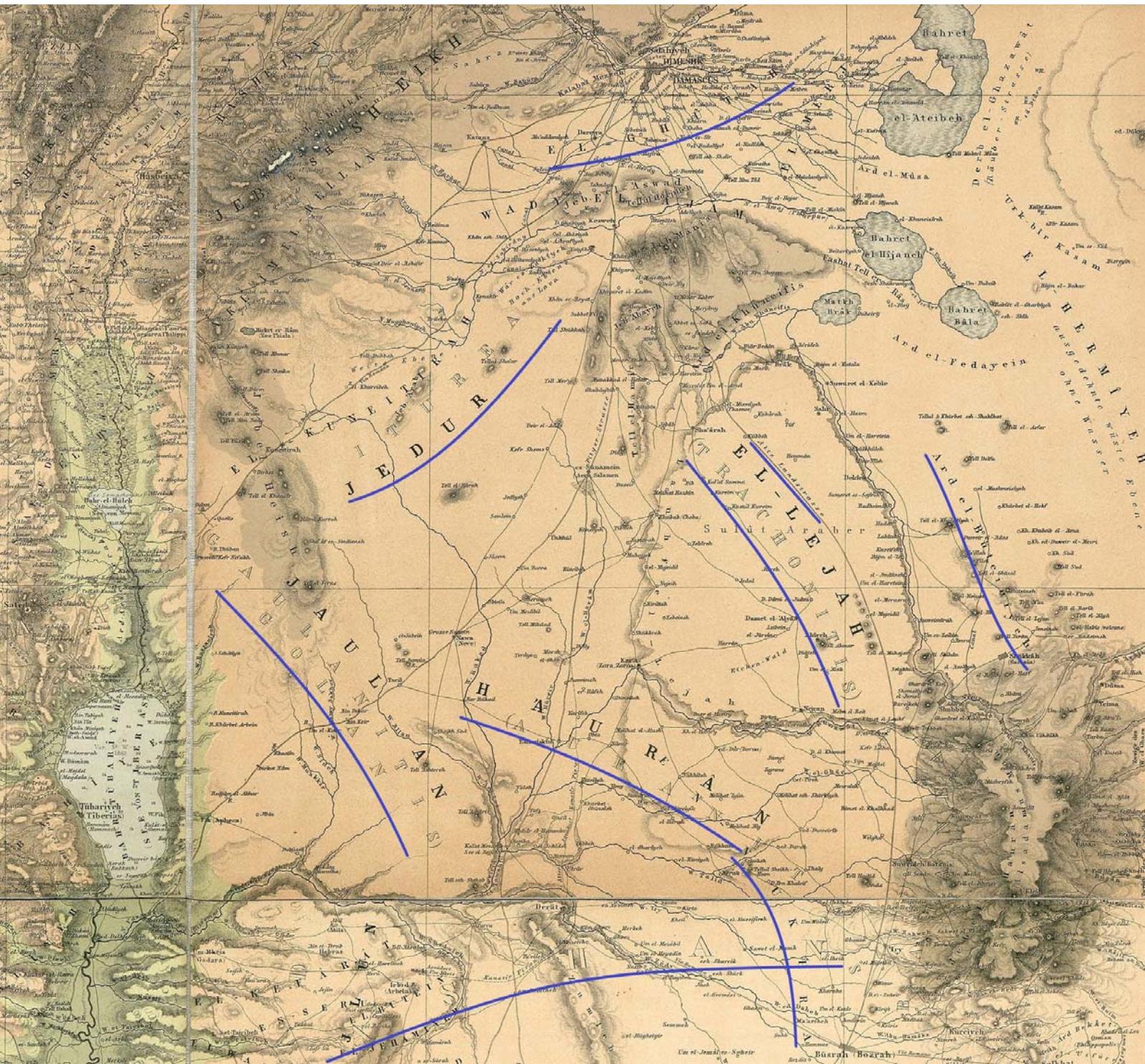
With regard to the Nukra (also En-Nukra), the flat plain west of the Hauran Mountains, which is characterized by large amounts of decomposed basalt trapping, a kind of volcanic tuff and the resulting fertile red earth, I also refer to the numerous map sections.

With regard to the above already mentioned Batanaea, I refer to the map Details made from various sources of 1860-1940, as well as to the literature, for example A. Shalit (King Herodes, Fig.3, Berlin 1969)

Please see the blue and red marks and underlines, on the following selection of old topographic maps.



00-kiepert-HAURAN-1860-k



01-map of the holy land by v-d- Velde 1866-Detail-pal0550

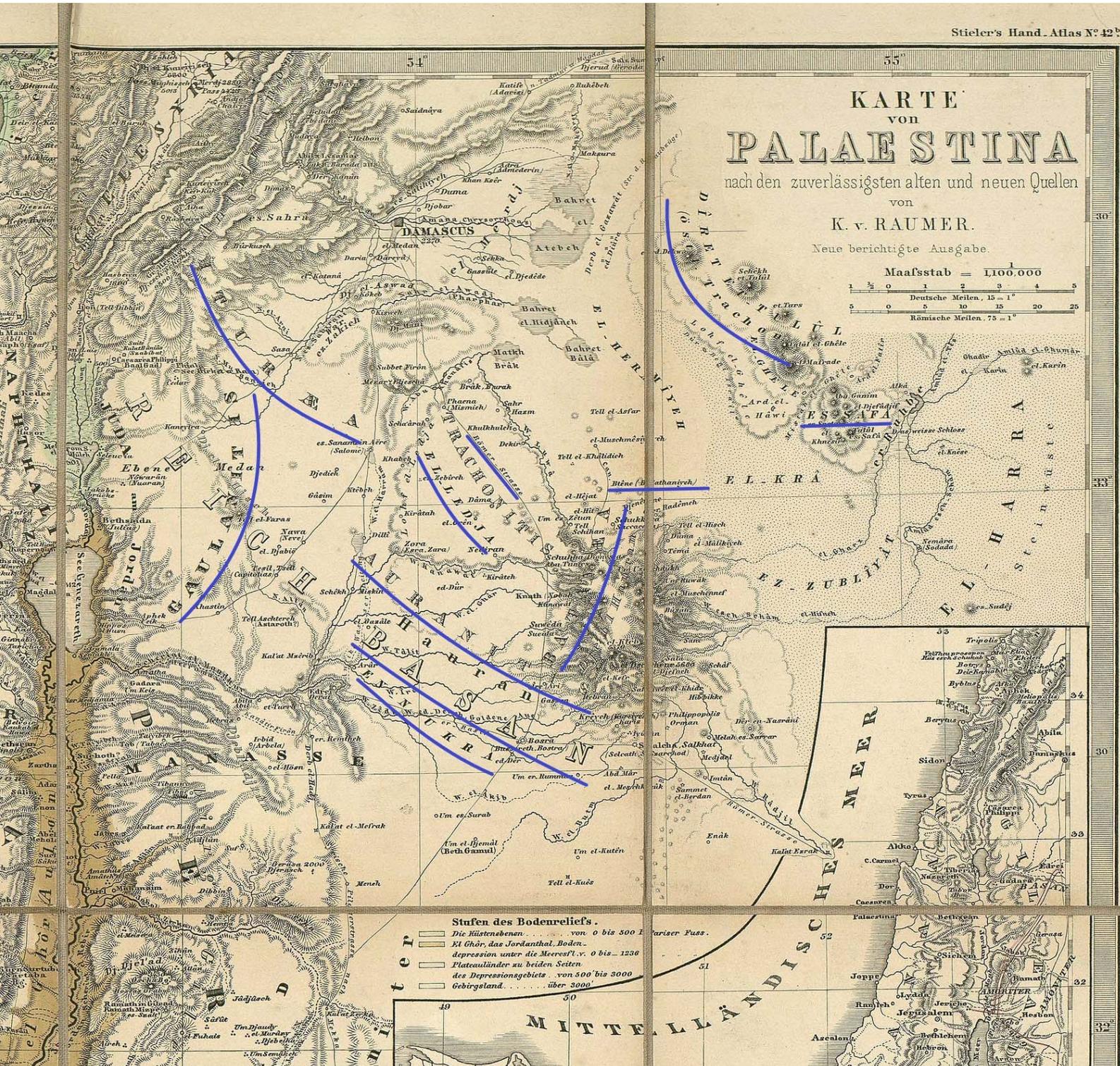
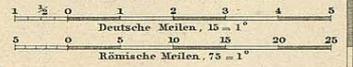
KARTE VON PALAESTINA

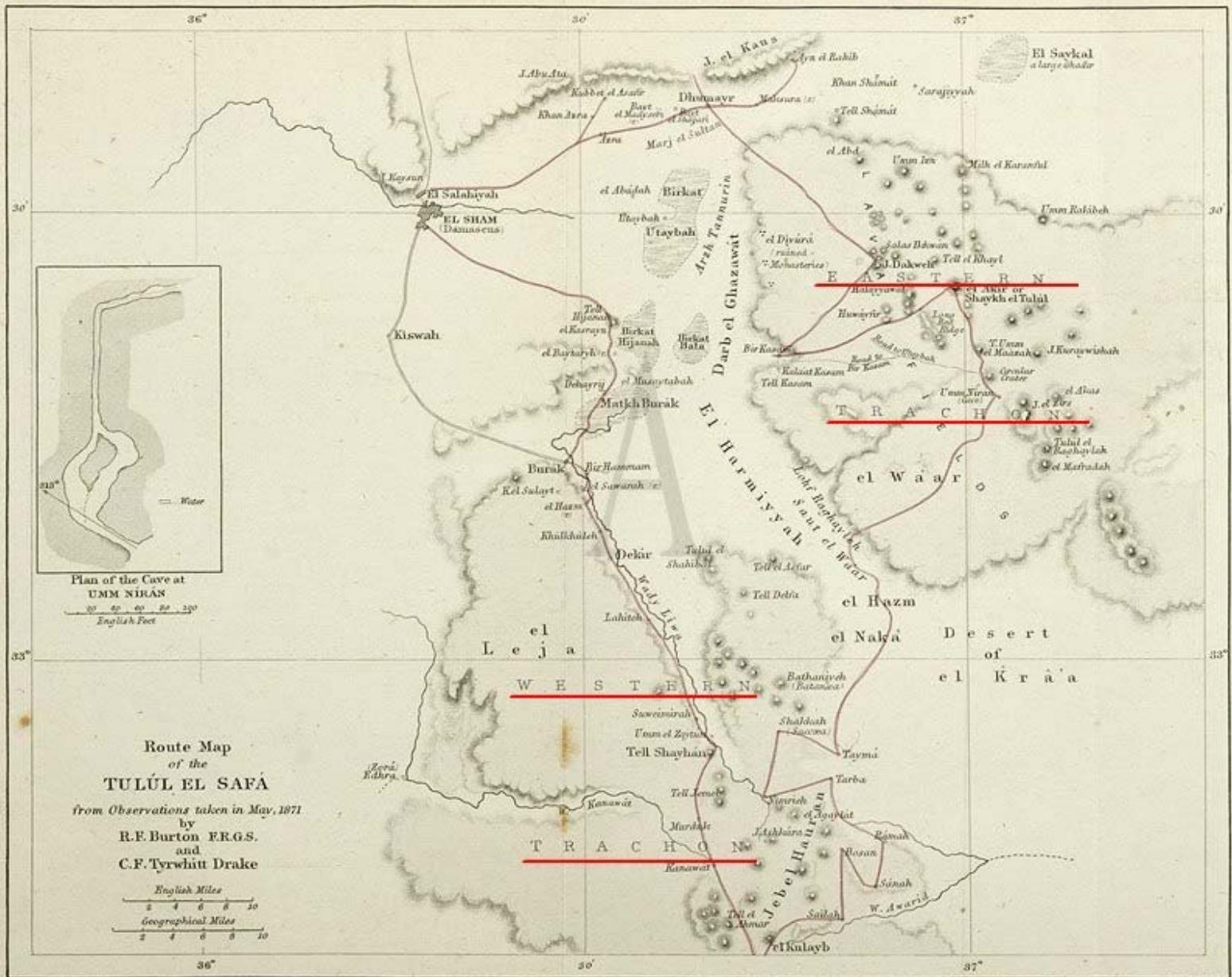
nach den zuverlässigsten alten und neuen Quellen

von
K. v. RAUMER.

Neue berichtigte Ausgabe.

Maafsstab = 1:1,000,000





03-Map by Burton and Drake 1871 with the two Trachones



CARTE
de la
PALESTINE
ET DU
LIBAN

Comprenant en outre, les régions situées à l'Est
de l'Anti-Liban, du Jourdain et de la Mer Morte.

Etablie d'après les Cartes hydrographiques françaises, celles de
l'Exploration Fund, de l'Etat-Major Fr^{çais} et les travaux particuliers
de MM^{es} de Sauley, Vignes, Kiepert, Wetzstein, E. G. Rey,
Tristram, Palmer et Drake etc. etc...

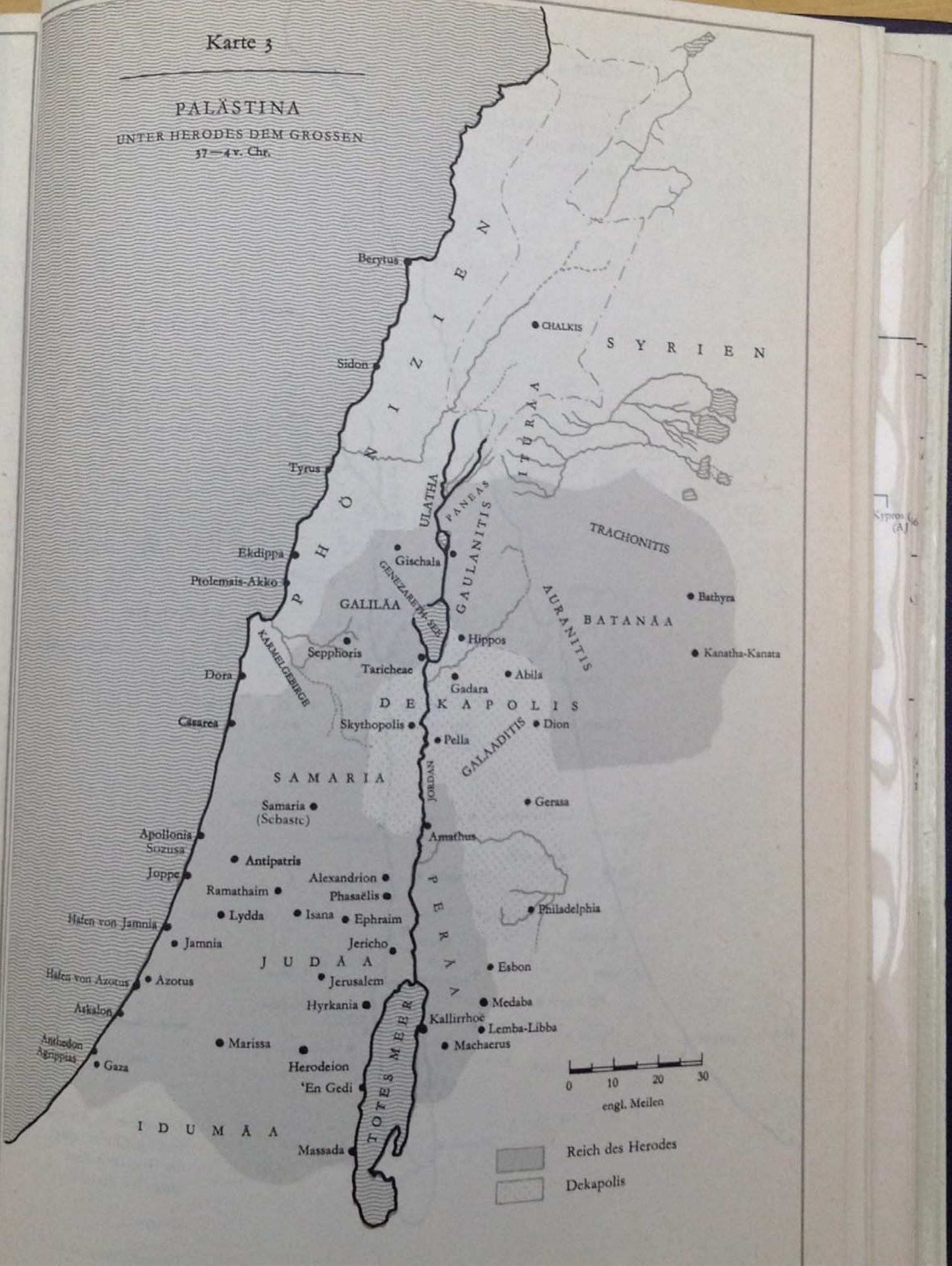
L. THUILLIER
DESSINATEUR - GÉOGRAPHE

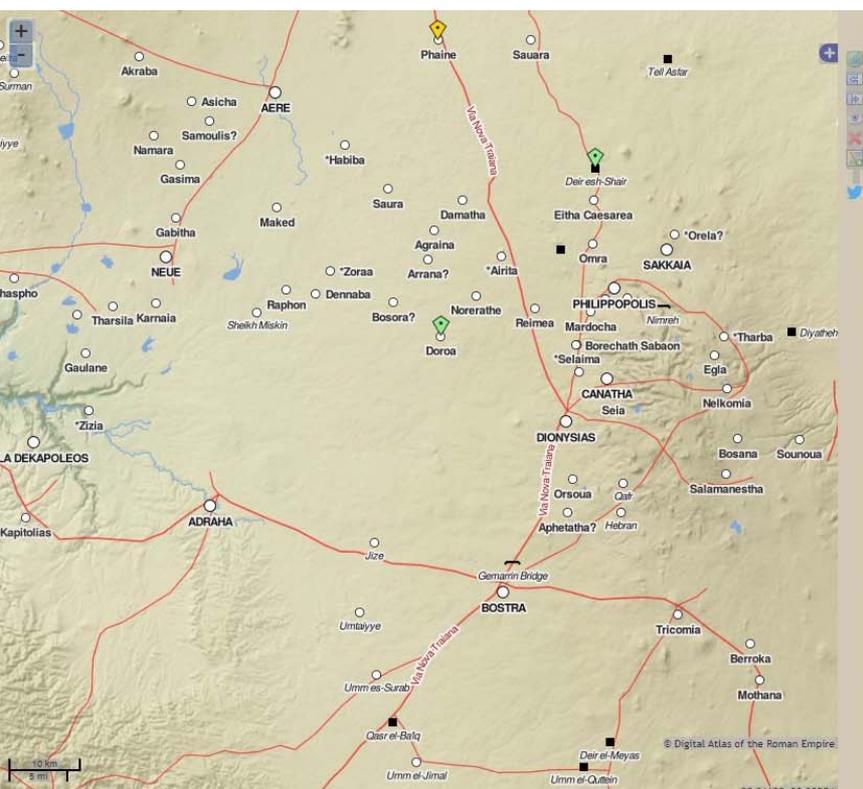


07-english map of 1938-detail- nla.obj-2969362830-1

Karte 3

PALÄSTINA
UNTER HERODES DEM GROSSEN
37—4 v. Chr.





Home Legend Layer Search Places Map

Digital Atlas of the Roman Empire
imperium :: Visited places :: Elmismyah

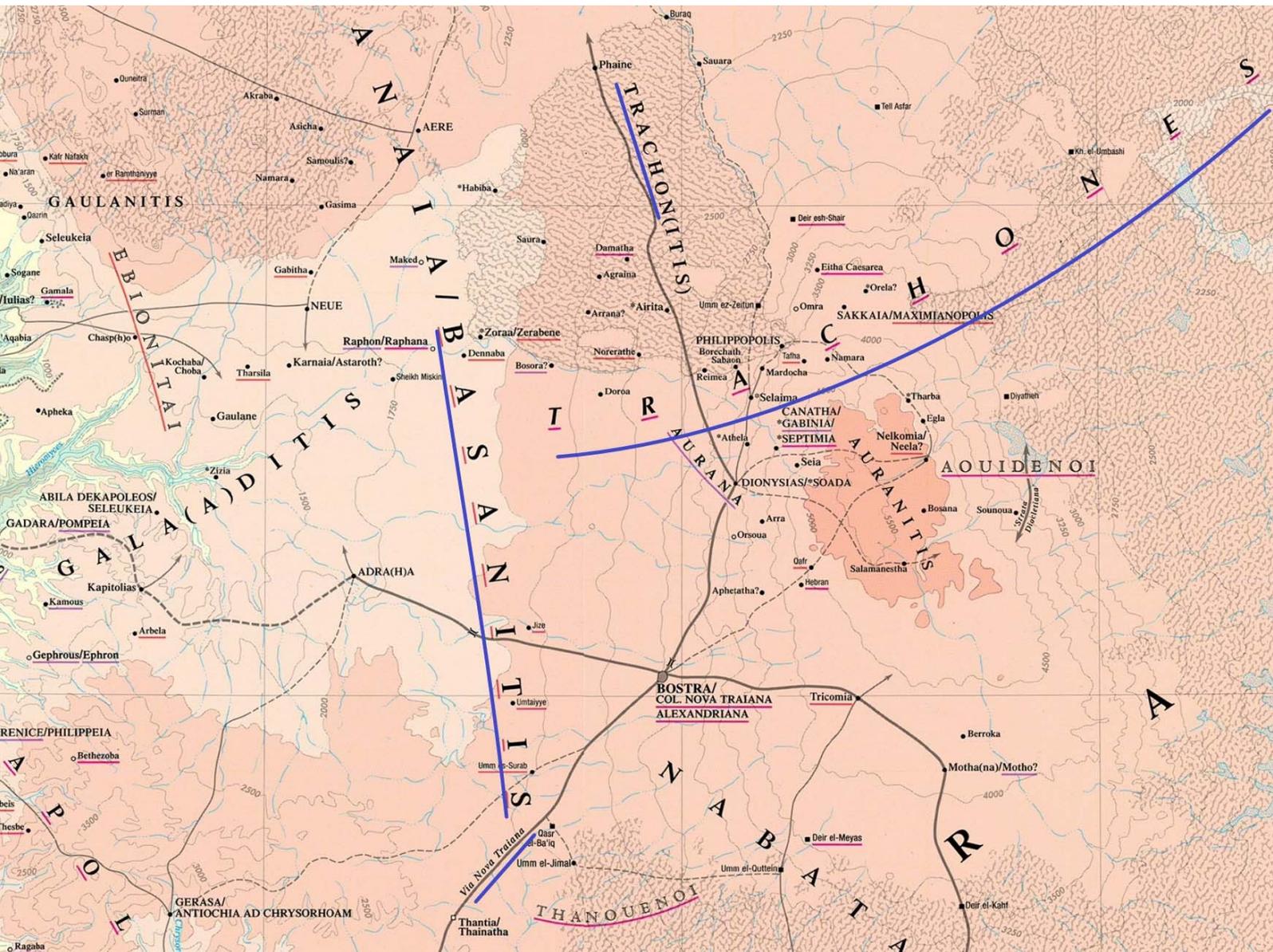
Elmismyah

Information about the ancient place attested as Phaine, located at Elmismyah

id	23429
URI	imperium.ahlfeldt.se/places/23429
spatial coverage	Elmismyah
country (ISO 3166)	SY
historical name(s)	Phaine
place type	town → Display all
temporal coverage	
start date	-30
end date	640
<i>Additional metadata and related external resources</i>	
pleiades	678328
<i>Pelagios annotations</i>	
<i>Pelagios 3</i>	Pelagios 3 (experimental)
<i>Geometry, additional built-in and external maps</i>	
WGS 84 position	36.39855 33.12877
	Center Zoom
accuracy	200
built-in maps	Bing Satellite OpenStreetMap
external maps	OpenStreetMap Google Maps Geonames Wikimapia Panoramio
See further	Panoramio Photos
<i>About this document</i>	
created	2013-08-01
serialization formats	rdf/xml text turtle

Via Nova Traiana between Bostra and Phaine through the Ledja

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
C3	<i>Tel Anafa</i>	HR?	ISR	TIR Iudaea 241
A5	<i>Tel Hefer</i>	AL	ISR	TIR Iudaea 242
E3	<i>Tell Asfar</i>	R?	SYR	Poidebard 1934 L
B4	<i>Tell Basul</i>	R?L	ISR	TIR Iudaea 241
B4	<i>Tell el Firr</i>	HRL	WBK	TIR Iudaea 242
B5	<i>Tell Miske</i>	RL	WBK	TIR Iudaea 244
C5	<i>Tell Saidiyeh</i>	HR	JOR	NEAEHL 4.1295-1300
A4	<i>Tel Mevorakh</i>	HR	ISR	TIR Iudaea 244
B4	Tha'anach	R?L	Tell Ti'innik WBK	TIR Iudaea 246
B4	Thabor M. Thainatha = Thantia	HRL	Tabor ISR	TIR Iudaea 246-47
C2	*Thamaneita	R	Timnin LEB	IGLSyr 6.2960; Krencker 1938, 138
D5	Thanouenoi	R	JOR	Sartre 1982, 134
D5	Thantia/ Thainatha	RL	Thugrat al-Jubb? JOR	Kennedy 1982, 152
E4	*Tharba	RL	Tarba SYR	Dussaud 1927, 370
C4	Tharsila	L	Tsil SYR	Dussaud 1927, 345-46
B4	Thekoa	RL	Teqo'a / Khirbet et Tuqu' ISR	TIR Iudaea 248 (II)
E2	Thelseai	RL	Dmeir SYR	IGRR 3.1094; Dussaud 1927, 265
B5	Thena	RL	Khirbet T'ana el Fauqa WBK	TIR Iudaea 249
C5	Thesbe	L	Khan Mar Elyas JOR	ItEg 16.1; Abel 1933 II, 486 Tisbeh
C4	Tiberiadis Mare/ Gennesar L.		Sea of Galilee	TIR Iudaea 179
C4	Tiberias	RL	Tiberias ISR	TIR Iudaea 249-50
B5	Tibetha	RL	et Tayyibe ISR	TIR Iudaea 250
C5	<i>Tirat Zevi</i>	RL	ISR	TIR Iudaea 251
D3	Trachon(itis)	HRL	Lejja SYR	RE
D4	<u>Trachones</u>	R	Lejja and Safa area SYR	Strabo 16.2.16, 20



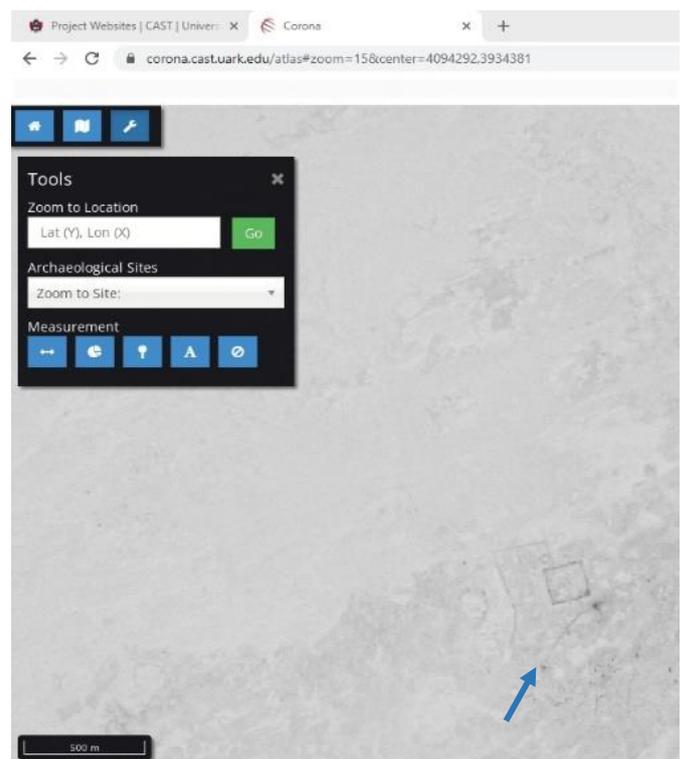
Response to the review of Mr. R. Palermo, Round 2:

I hope that, the new revision of my work fulfils your wishes and I am sure that you can recommend it as well. For this purpose, experienced experts have, professionally optimized the written language and orthography, and I have made further additions. Since all of this was financed at my own expense, without any funding or a large university budget, it took a little bit longer. I apologize for this. It is important for me to go back to the issue of older satellite images that you mentioned. Parts of this declaration were and are now included in the work in an expanded manner, I will add others here extern below.

The specified satellite image resolution refers to the smallest clearly delimitable detail or individual object that can be seen in the image. Each additional image pixel can therefore provide more details. For example, satellite images with a resolution of 31 cm (Worldview 3 - Maxar-Google Earth) can capture details on the ground that are greater than or equal to 31 cm x 31 cm. Anything on the ground that is smaller than this size can no longer be represented in its real contour, and so forms within the pixel square (31x31cm) only a uniformly mixed color contour/grey level with its surrounding area within this square. This allows 31cm resolution images to represent more than 9times more photographic details, than 1m resolution images and more than 40times more Details than the older 2m (Corona) resolution images. This also clearly explains the lack of contours in a direct comparison between the Corona satellite images and the Google Earth/Maxar images used in this work. Google Earth, with its main provider Maxar Technologies, is also constantly developing its products. For example, since 2016 the previous images from the Ikonos satellites with a resolution of 82cm have since been supplemented with the 31cm resolution images from the Worldview satellites. For the commercial market, Maxar Technologies also offers images with a resolution of 15 cm. Another very big advantage of the images used results from the close staggering of the image recording data. As a result, shadows and vegetation phases make additional contours visible that would otherwise be hardly recognizable.

The direct comparison of the satellite images shows the remains of the building on the southern corner of the main fortress on the Corona satellite images (left) only as blurred, i.e. contourless pixels. The right side, however, shows clear details due to the mentioned 40times higher resolution, which can clearly be interpreted as the outer walls of a large building. In addition, as the images show, there is another difference in quality between the Corona satellite images from 1970 and 1967. Here the image noise is so high that even fewer contours are perceptible in the image. Overall, this also makes it clear why the walls, or even the earth walls, which are only recognizable through shadows, of the auxiliary forts described for the first time in this work, are not recognizable on older pictures. At best, based on current knowledge, these can be guessed on these older images.

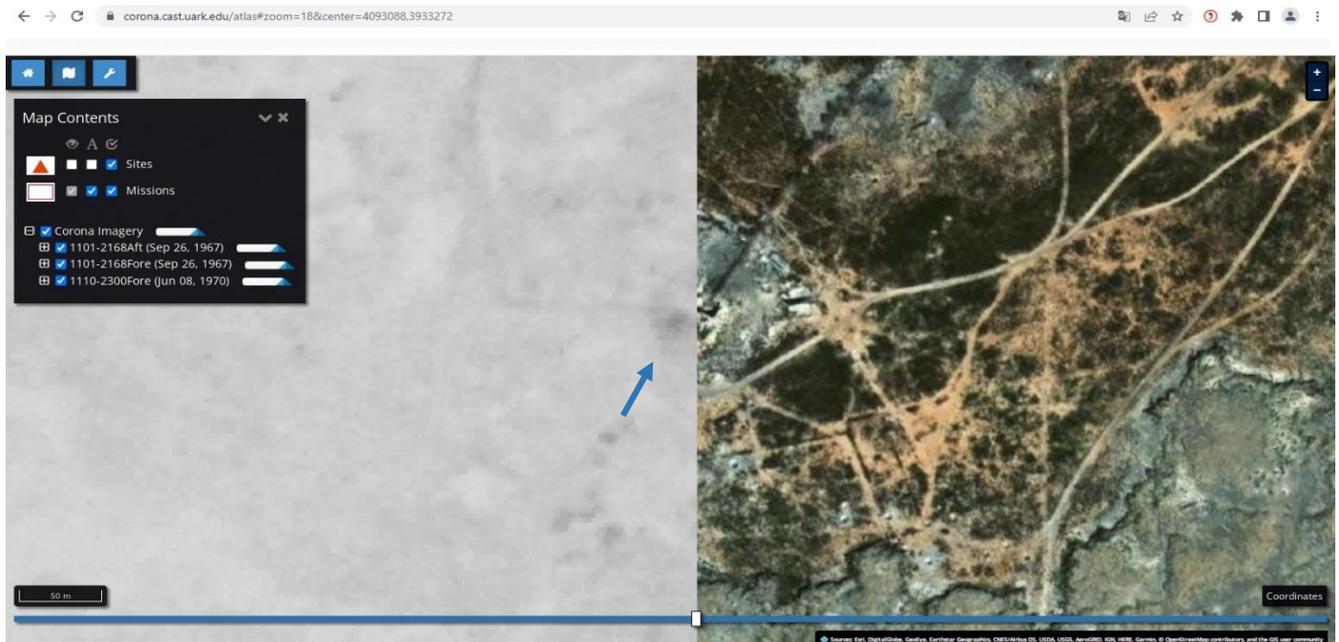
1970 Corona Image, no further Details visible including the new discovered auxiliary forts.



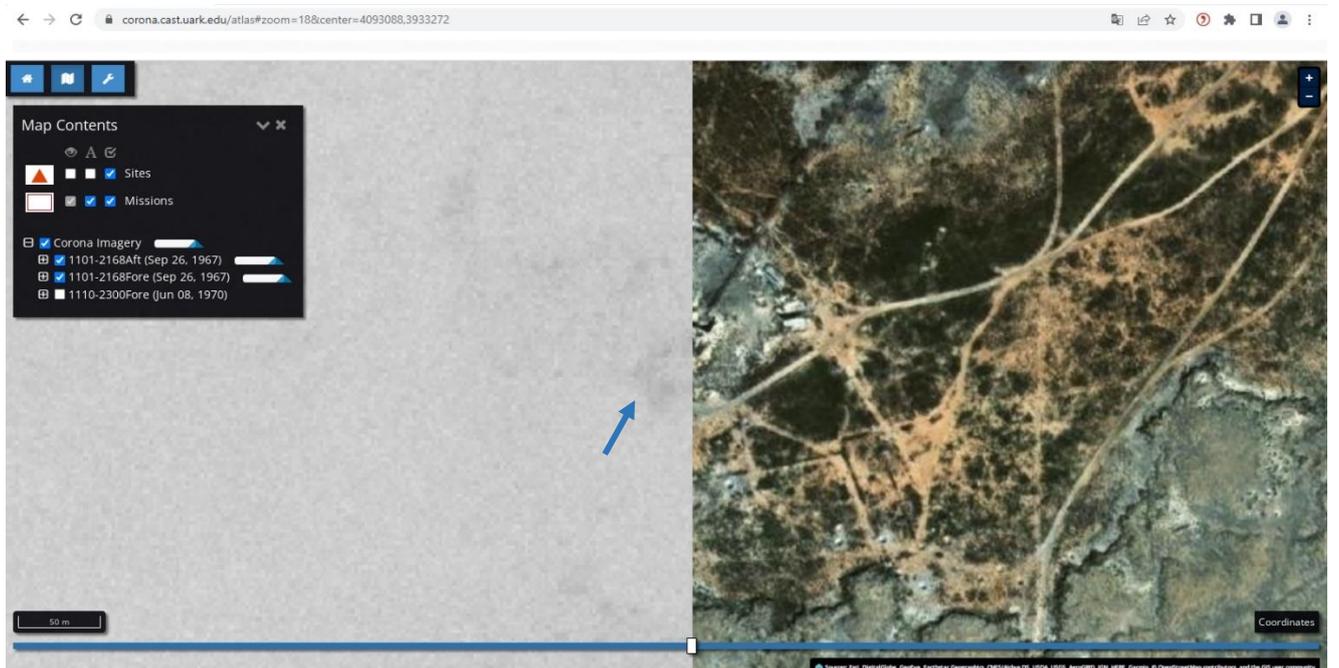
Direct comparison of the Corona Satellite Images (left) in the highest available resolution and the “normal” Maxar /Google Earth Images (right)

Details:

1970



1967:



Further literature on this thematic can be found via <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00094916> .