« The Fortifications of the City of Gyaaur Kala, Merv », in : J. Cribb, G. Herrmann, eds., *After Alexander. Central Asia before Islam*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 313-329. (Proceedings of the British Academy, 133)

Carlo Lippolis

Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/37605>

DOI : 10.4000/abstractairanica.37605

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 8 avril 2010

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Carlo Lippolis, « « The Fortifications of the City of Gyaaur Kala, Merv », in : J. Cribb, G. Herrmann, eds., *After Alexander. Central Asia before Islam*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 313-329. (Proceedings of the British Academy, 133) », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 30 | 2010, document 50, mis en ligne le 08 avril 2010, consulté le 26 septembre 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/37605> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.37605>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 26 septembre 2020.

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« The Fortifications of the City of Gyaour Kala, Merv », in : J. Cribb, G. Herrmann, eds., *After Alexander. Central Asia before Islam*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 313-329. (Proceedings of the British Academy, 133)

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- 1 The excavations of the Turkmen-British International Merv Project between 1997-2003 focused their attention to the fortification walls of Gyaour Kala, revealing a complex sequence of building phases for the defences. In at least three main phases (Graeco-Bactrian period, early and middle Sasanian periods), the walls were substantially redesigned and the defensive system changed. The author traces a history of the previous excavations and follows the development of the city walls (with ten different phases of utilization), comparing the defensive system with other walls of Asia Minor and Central Asia. The importance of Gyaour Kala's fortification system lies in the fact that it shed light on the development of military technologies for Central Asia over a period of about thirteen centuries.

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