

Lionel Bier. *Palais B at Bishapur and its Sasanian Reliefs*

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- 1 Palais B, the so-called “Valerian’s palace”, is a stone building on the northeastern side of Bishapur. It was first excavated by R. Ghirshman and G. Salles who discovered relief sculptures there. A. Sarfaraz followed up on these pre-World War II excavations briefly in 1974, when more sculpted blocks were dug up. The late Lionel Bier has combined the limited information existing on this palace with photographs and drawings of 25 blocks or block fragments with relief decorations, which he saw at the storage facilities in Bishapur. These reliefs portray equestrians, horses at rest and standing figures. The original positions of the blocks as well as the building’s layout and function remain unknown. Based on a comparison with rock reliefs, Bier dates the sculptures to the period ranging from Shapur I (242-273) to Hormuzd II (302-309), and thus proposes a date for the building and the use of this stonework in Sasanian architecture.

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