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- ¹ This paper presents an interesting study conducted by the Columbia University Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments Survey (MMM) on three stone rock reliefs discovered at Amadiya/Amedi in Iraqi Kurdistan and dating probably to the Parthian period. The three reliefs, carved in large stele-shaped niches, are located along the staircase leading to the citadel of Amedi, close to the Mosul or Bahdinat Gate, which was decorated in the Seljuk time with a rich carved decoration.

- 2 The MMM team documented the rock through relief modern techniques such as photogrammetry, controlled perspective and correct perspective stills and 360° perspectives and immersive panoramas, which provided useful data for disclosing the iconography of the damaged representations as well as for investigating the material, state of preservation and carving techniques employed.
- 3 The iconographic and stylistic study conducted pinpointed to several comparisons for the figures represented in the stele-shaped niches, providing a clear chronological setting during the Parthian period (1st cent. BCE – 2nd cent. CE).
- 4 The closest comparisons are detected among three-dimensional statues and relieves from Hatra and rock-reliefs from Rabana-Merquly and Batas Herir in Kurdistan. The first relief, better preserved because of its location close to the Mosul Gate which protected it against atmospheric agents, is a frontal male figure carrying a spear (?) and various weapons which – due to his stance and accessories – can be assimilated to a warrior deity based on comparisons from Hatra. The second relief, more damaged, represents a female figure with a long tunic and perhaps a shield on the ground, likely to be identified with the ‘Allat-Athena type’ well-known at Hatra. Finally, the third relief depicts the profile of an armed figure that can be interpreted as a local ruler.
- 5 The interest of this paper lies in the innovative approach used for the study of rock-relieves and on the comparative analysis with other ‘Parthian’ centres, which probably will be implemented in the future.

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