



Inv. no.

THE ROMAN FOUNDATION

The street Suq Midhat Pasha cuts right through the Old City of Damascus. 2000 years ago it was known by St Paul, the Apostle, as “the street called straight”.

Around 10 BC King Herod the Great built a large theatre south of the “straight street”. Later it sank into oblivion only to reappear during the restoration of the Aqqad-house. Hidden under and behind the mudwalls of the 18th century, parts of the Roman ashlar masonry of the theatre were discovered. Among other features the arch above the eastern entrance to the lower stage floor, the *orchestra*, had been found.