



*Photograph by John F. Healey.*

Old Syriac inscription dated A.D. 73 in the wall of a tomb-tower in Serrin, left bank of the Euphrates opposite Qal'at Najm, Syria. It reads:

In the month of Former Tešrīn of the year 385, I Ma'nū the elder, budar of Naḥay, son of Ma'nū, grandson of Šardunaḥa, built this monument for myself and for my children, at the age of 90. Whoever gives thanks, may all the gods bless him and permanence and life may he have. Whoever comes and destroys this work and ... these bones ... may he have no tomb and no children to throw dust upon his eyes.

Letters in Old Syriac inscriptions are mostly disconnected, and do not have any marks or points, not even to distinguish Dālaṭ from Rīš. The inscription above also illustrates the Old Syriac numbering system.

*(In situ; see §17 ff., 335 ff.)*