Antioch-on-the-Orontes, the capital of the Roman province of Syria, was one of the four great cities of the ancient world. This mosaic was discovered in August 1937 at an excavation site in Seleucia Pieria, Antioch’s seaport. It was one section of the floor panel of a “triclinium,” or dining room, of a private house. Though much of the floor was lost to erosion, other surviving fragments are now housed in museums in Detroit and Norman, Oklahoma. Analyses of the fragments have determined that the center of the panel contained figures personifying Roman provinces. Corresponding river figures were in the four corners. This section, one of the corners, contains a bust-length image of a personification of Pyramos, as indicated by the inscription.

Antioch-on-the-Orontes became part of the Roman Empire in the first century C.E. Though its inhabitants adopted Roman customs, they continued to speak the language of their Hellenistic ancestors, as evidenced by this Greek inscription.