

of using ~~the~~ this writing to express words, and to preserve the recollection of these words.

then

Now the Sumerians/wrote down a fairly extensive literature of stories, legends of various ~~x~~ types. It's a very interesting literature, but it was entirely buried until within the last 150 years, and hardly read until within ~~the~~ the last 50 years. And there are comparatively few scholars who can do much with this Sumerian literature. There were also ~~in~~ inscriptions made/~~during~~ at that time in Egypt during that ~~century~~ century (millennium?) - on walls of buildings, and inside of some of the pyramids. And these inscriptions, many of them could be seen all ~~the~~ through the centuries, but for 2000 years people/~~forgot~~ completely how to read them. So they were just as lost as if they'd been buried - until within this last 200 years when we have learned to read ~~the~~ these Egyptian inscriptions. The inscriptions, however, mostly are simply brief records of historical events, something like that, so it's questionable whether they belong under the heading of literature, as to/~~the~~ ^{these} buried tablets that the Sumerians wrote. Fortunately the Sumerians wrote their literature on clay tablets, and these clay tablets, if baked, were practically indestructible. And that way we have a great deal of this material that has been preserved to the present day. It is not widely known today, but there are a few scholars who have been working very ~~hard~~ intensively in this field.

Then the second millennium B.C. The second millennium B.C. would be from 2000 to 1000 B.C. It is a period that is almost less known today than the third millennium because there was more disruption; there was more upheaval; there was more destruction in this period than during the previous one. But it was a very active period, and there was a great deal of literature written in the fairly young city then of Babylon. We call it the "Old Babylonian Literature." And this literature was by people familiar with Sumerian literature. It has some relationship to /it, but it is quite independent of it in the main.

Now in Mesopotamia at this time, in the second millennium, B. C., the writing was on clay tablets/, and so a great deal of it is preserved. In Egypt they were