

philologist, had his attention called to the publication of these inscriptions and tried to interpret them. Acting on the assumption that the first of the three languages was ancient Persian, he made a study of what was known of ancient Persian history and comparing two or three of these inscriptions, attempted to select the proper names that were repeated and to determine what these names might be. By the use of a great deal of ingenuity, he succeeded in hitting on the meaning of certain of these proper names and finding the characters in common between them. Thus the foundation was made in the interpretation of the ancient Persian cuneiform.

Modern Persian was being studied by scholars at this time, and while the languages differed a good deal, as might naturally be expected in view of the great length of time that elapsed in between, modern Persian threw a great deal of light upon what was necessary to decipher ancient Persian.

The next great advance in the decipherment of the cuneiform writing came with the discovery of a longer text in the old Persian. A young English officer who was connected with the Persian army, named Henry C. Rollinson, made a discovery in 1835 in the Zagros Mountains. He found there a limestone mountain, rising out of the plain, to a height of 1700 ft. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ On one side of this mountain the face was almost perpendicular. About 350 ft. above the base on the perpendicular side, a large space had been carefully hewn off and polished. Upon the smooth surface was a bas relief representing a king seated on a throne and a number of prisoners standing in front of him bound neck to neck with a rope. At the side and below this large picture were several columns of cuneiform inscriptions. It seemed to Rollinson that there must have been some sort of scaffold in ancient times so that a passerby could climb up