

In 1847 his text, translation and commentary appeared in the journal of the Royal Asiatic Society. Scholars now began to study the other two languages. On the assumption that the material contained was the same as in the old Persian, they worked out the second language which they called Susian. Its writing was ~~Salavie~~ ^{syllabic}. By this time inscriptions from the excavations that were being made in Mesopotamia began to be made public in great number. It was evident that the writing on them used the same type of characters as on the third set in the Behistum inscription. It was evident that this third type of writing must be the writing of ancient Babylonia. ~~Robinson~~ ^{Rawlinson} himself did very fine work in the translation of this third part of the inscription. Other scholars also made advances on it and eventually a fairly complete translation of it was worked out. The language was soon seen to be a semitic language with many points of similarity to Hebrew and this gave great help in its study. The writing proved to be partly ~~Salavie~~ ^{syllabic} as in the case of the Susian and partly ideographic. Some signs stood for syllables such as ma, me, mi, mo or mu. These signs that stood for a consonant with various fowels after it did not bear any particular resemblance to each other. Other signs stood for words, as one sign would represent the idea of a king, another of a river, another of a man, and thus it was possible to read many signs and tell their meaning accurately without much idea as to how they should be pronounced. The great difficulty developed when it was found that often several signs might represent the same sound and in one case one would be used and in another case another of them. Also one sign might have several possible meanings. For instance, one sign sometimes represented the syllable kal, some times the syllable rib, sometimes lab and some times ~~da~~ ^h. One sign might represent the syllables, ~~rib~~ ^{ut}, tu, tam, par, pir, lah, hish, or it might mean a day or the sun or the sun god.