

We notice that most of these loan-words belong to the field of government administration or military use.

To read these inscriptions leads us into many fields; politics and religion, social conditions and forms of art, philology and linguistics, culture contact and personal piety. Few in number as they are, they are 'documents humains' and 'documents culturels' of the first order. And indeed, the work of gathering them was undertaken not least in the hope of obtaining a better view and understanding of man in the Edessean culture.

REMARKS CONCERNING THE SYRIAC TEXTS

Letters between [] have been restored as probable; as a rule they are not legible in the facsimile. Lacunae in the facsimile have been indicated in the same fashion. Letters whose reading is doubtful are marked by a vertical line above; other readings are sometimes possible in these cases.