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perhaps if they could read this it would give them the clue to the reading of these clay tablets. So they got to work studying for comparison between this third type of writings and the first two on the proper names. One thing which they found right away which was interesting was that some times where you would have eight or ten letters in the first type of writing you would have only letter corresponding in the third type. You knew that, for instance, because the word "king" which would have about five letters in the Persian type of writing, you could spot anywhere it occurred in the Persian inscription and it occurred rather frequently, and wherever it occurred in the Babylonian writing you found one particular style and only that one sign repeated--no other; so that made it evident that in the Babylonian there was one sign that meant king and it didn't need more than one sign to give the idea of king. Similarly they found the sign for "man" and they found the sign for "river" and a great many other words like that; they found the sign, just one sign to represent it; they had no idea in the world how to pronounce the particular word, but they had--in the case of the names of the kings they had a number of signs and they managed to guess the sounds of various signs from them. So it was soon evident that the writing used in Babylonia and Assyria had signs that represented individual sounds, signs that represented syllables, and signs that represented whole words. It's quite a complicated system, as you see. It has hundreds of different signs, while there are only about one hundred that are really common. Now in this Babylonian writing, then, they noticed soon that the sign that represented "r" in the king's name might be written in any one of eight different ways, and it didn't seem reasonable to think that there were eight different individual letters for the letter "r", so they came to the conclusion these represented syllables and in the Babylonian writing it was eventually proven that letters for individual sounds occur only to represent vowels. You have the vowel "a", which we call "a" there; the