

Nöldeke as early as 1860¹ drew attention to the fact that the noun **سَطْر** seemed to be a borrowing from **𐤔𐤌𐤒** = **שטר**,² so that the verb, as Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 250, notes, would be denominative. The Aram. **שטר** = **𐤔𐤌𐤒** means a *document*, and is from a root connected with Akk. *šaṭāru*, to write. It occurs as **שטר** in Nabataean and Palmyrene inscriptions,³ and in the S. Arabian inscriptions we have **𐩦𐩣𐩪** to write, and **𐩦𐩣𐩪𐩪** inscriptions.⁴ D. H. Müller, *WZKM*, i, 29, thinks that the Arabic may have been influenced both by the Aramaeans of the north, and the Sabaeans of the south, and as a matter of fact as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 311, tells us that Juwaibir in his comment on xvii, 60, quoted a tradition from Ibn 'Abbās to the effect that

مكتوب was the word used in the Himyaritic dialect for **مسطور**.⁵

The presence of the Phlv. **𐤔𐤌𐤒** *stūrē*, as, e.g., in the phrase **𐤔𐤌𐤒 𐤕𐤌𐤕** = in lines (*PPGI*, 205), makes us think, however, that it may have been Aramaic influence which brought the word to S. Arabia.⁶ In any case the occurrence of the word in the early poetry shows that it was an early borrowing.

سِفْر (*Sifr*).

lxii, 5.

A large book.

It occurs only in the plu. **اسفار** in the proverb "like an ass beneath a load of books".

This sense of **اسفار** is quite unnatural in Arabic, and some of the early authorities quoted in as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 319,⁷ noted that it was a borrowing from Nabataean or Syriac. It was apparently a word used among the Arabs for the Scriptures of Jews and Christians, for in

¹ *Geschichte des Qorans*, p. 13.

² Cf. Horovitz, *KU*, 70.

³ Lidzbarski, *Handbuch*, 374.

⁴ Lidzbarski, *Ephemeris*, ii, 381; Hommel, *Chrest*, 124; Müller, *Epigr. Denkm. aus Arabien*, lii, 2; liv, 2; Glaser, *Altjemenische Nachrichten*, 67 ff.; Rossini, *Glossarium*, 194.

⁵ Vide Sprenger, *Leben*, ii, 395.

⁶ Zimmermann, *Akkad. Fremdw*, 29, takes the Arabic form as derived from Aramaic.

⁷ *Mutaw*, 54, 59.