

Preliminary Remarks on the Thamudic C and D inscriptions from the areas of Medina and Mecca

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This talk will provide an overview of the features of script, orthography, and grammar of the Thamudic inscriptions from the areas of Medina and Mecca, published in several recent editions in print and online. These texts prove the existence of an independent glyph for s3 in Thamudic C and for ǰ in Thamudic D, in turn demonstrating that the introductory particle zn (previously regarded as a demonstrative pronoun) should be read conclusively as 'n, perhaps the first person pronoun or a presentative particle, compare Arabic 'inna. We also conclusively identify the glyph for *g in Thamudic D. The talk concludes with remarks on the linguistic and cultural background of the writers of these texts, based on the onomasticon and grammar, and a few speculative remarks on the chronology of the inscriptions.