

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910781192203321
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Titolo	Aramaic inscriptions and documents of the Roman period . Volume IV Textbook of Syrian Semitic inscriptions // by John F. Healey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, [England] : , : Oxford University Press, , 2009 ©2009
ISBN	0-19-155484-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (388 p.)
Collana	Textbook of Syrian Semitic Inscriptions
Altri autori (Persone)	HealeyJohn F
Disciplina	492.041
Soggetti	Inscriptions, Semitic
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; List of Illustrations; Abbreviations and Other Conventions; I. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INTRODUCTION; II. EPIGRAPHIC AND LINGUISTIC INTRODUCTION; III. NABATAEAN ARAMAIC INSCRIPTIONS AND PAPYRI; IV. JEWISH (PALESTINIAN) ARAMAIC INSCRIPTIONS AND PAPYRI; V. PALMYRENE INSCRIPTIONS; VI. EARLY SYRIAC (EDESSAN ARAMAIC) INSCRIPTIONS AND PARCHMENTS; VII. HATRAN INSCRIPTIONS; Figures and Plates; Lexical Indexes; Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	In the first centuries AD, although much of the Near East was ruled by Rome, the main local language was Aramaic, and the people who lived inside or on the fringes of the area controlled by the Romans frequently wrote their inscriptions and legal documents in their own local dialects of this language. This book introduces these fascinating early texts to a wider audience, by presenting a representative sample, comprising eighty inscriptions and documents in the following dialects:Nabataean, Jewish, Palmyrene, Syriac, and Hatran. Detailed commentaries on the texts are preceded by chapters on hi