

(as well as Greek) centers of learning in the fourth and fifth centuries, but also the first attempts to invent an Armenian alphabet were made in connection with Syrian centers of learning, and even after the invention of the alphabet the first attempt at translation is connected with the Syriac literature.

These spiritual affinities should be kept in mind to understand the origin of Armenian Christian architecture and its similarities to the art subjected to Syro-Mesopotamian Hellenism. This affinity is made even clearer by the Armenian sepulchral steles of the IV-VIth centuries, which we shall study in the following part.