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Cultural and social changes in the province of Osrhoene in late antiquity

In the middle of the 3rd century BC, the kingdom of Osrhoene in northern Mesopotamia was finally incorporated into the Roman Empire, while the local Abgarid dynasty lost power. The royal court of Edessa, built according to Parthian hierarchy and customs, had already become a center of Syriac literary culture. The early influence of Christianity is also evident in the city and among the local aristocracy. This thesis aims to present the historical background and the local history of Osrhoene in late antiquity; an attempt has been made to define the geographical boundaries of Osrhoene and to show the role of other cities and their connections to Edessa. The main purpose is to trace the further formation and transformation of the local culture of Osrhoene, showing its changes in the social context (in the actions of the local aristocracy and clergy), and in terms of the literary and narrative *topoi* which became the pillars of local identity - the reception of *Doctrina Addai*, the figure of the Apostle Thomas, the motif of Edessa as an invincible city, and the perception of the “small homeland” both in cultural and in biblical terms. All these aspects influenced the formation of the local identity of Osrhoene and their sense of separateness, expressed mainly in the literary-symbolic layer.