

Old Persian is the name applied to the Persian language used in the cuneiform inscriptions of the Achaemenian dynasty; it was the vernacular speech of the Achaemenian rulers.

1 Typing Old Persian

1

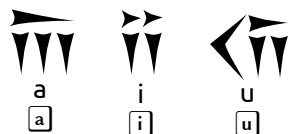
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1	I	a	y
2	J	b	z
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7	O	g	
8	P	h	

2 Writing System

3,5

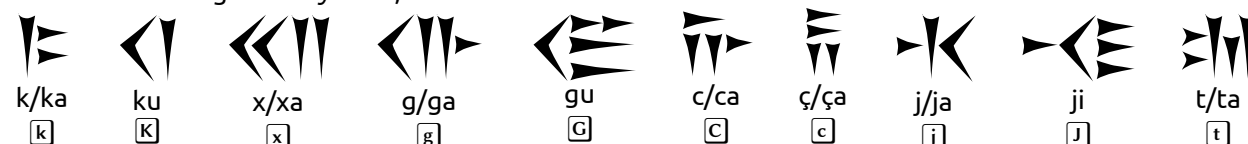
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are **3 vowel signs** and **33 consonant signs**

2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.



𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿
tu	θ/θa	d/da	di	du	p/pa	f/fa	b/ba	n/na	n/nu	m/ma
T	o	d	D	?	P	f	b	n	N	m
𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿
mi	mu	y/ya	v/va	vi	r/ra	ru	l/la	s/sa	š/ša	z/za
M	.	y	v	V	r	R	l	s	S	z
𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿										
h/ha										
h										

2.3 Logograms (Signs That Stand for a Whole Word)

𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿	𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿
king	earth	country	god	Ahuramazada	Ahuramazada (genitive)	
Q	e	4 3	6	W q	q	

3 Behistun Inscription




Figure 1: Behistun Inscription, Column i, lines 1-8²

1. 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿 𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿
(Pronoun) I⁶ Darius [4, 185]

1. I am Darius, the great king, king of kings, the king of Persia, the king of countries, the son of Hystaspes, the grandson of Arsames, the Achaemenid.
2. King Darius says: My father is Hystaspes; the father of Hystaspes was Arsames; the father of Arsames was Ariaramnes; the father of Ariaramnes was Teispes; the father of Teispes was Achaemenes.
3. King Darius says: That is why we are called Achaemenids; from antiquity we have been noble; from antiquity has our dynasty been royal.

References

¹ egreg. How to typeset ancient persian scripts in latex. <https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/397087/277953>.

- ² Livius. Behistun t 01. <https://www.livius.org/sources/content/behistun-persian-text/behistun-t-01/>.
- ³ Omniglot. Old persian cuneiform. <https://www.omniglot.com/writing/opcuneiform.htm>.
- ⁴ H. Rawlinson. *Memoir on Cuneiform Inscription*. 1849.
- ⁵ Prods Oktor Skjærvø. *An Introduction to Old Persian*. Online, 2002.
- ⁶ Wiktionary. . <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%F0%90%8E%A0%F0%90%8E%AD%F0%90%8E%B6>.