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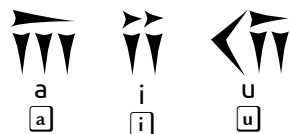
1 Typing Old Persian

[1]

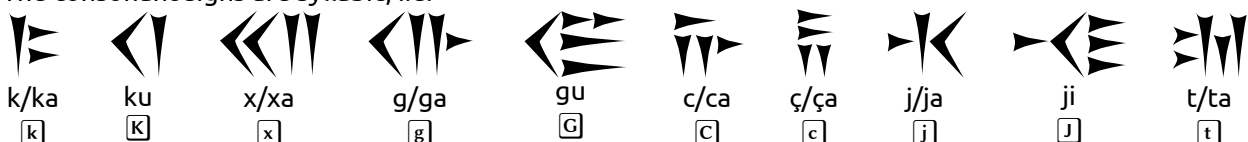|			
!	9 𒐜	Q 𒅁	i 𒑳
"	:	R 𒊑	j 𒀞
# 𒌋	; 𒌋	S 𒌍	k 𒅗
$ 𒌋	< 𒌋	T 𒋾	l 𒇷
% 𒐏	= 𒐏	U 𒌑	m 𒈨
&	>	V 𒀀	n 𒉈
'	? 𒐕	W 𒈠	o 𒊊
(𒐐	@ 𒐕	X 𒉿	p 𒉺
) 𒐊	A 𒀀	Y 𒅀	q 𒀀
* 𒐐	B 𒁀	Z 𒍝	r 𒇋
+ 𒐏	C 𒁓	[𒑱	s 𒊓
, 𒈨	D 𒁕	\ 𒁹	t 𒋳
- 𒐊	E □	] 𒑲	u 𒌑
. 𒌋	F 𒆠	^	v 𒉿
/ 𒁹	G 𒄀	_ 𒌋	w 𒉿
0 𒌋	H 𒄩	' 𒅁	x 𒉿
1 𒁹	I 𒑳	a 𒀀	y 𒅀
2 𒐊	J 𒊭	b 𒁀	z 𒍝
3 𒐏	K 𒆪	c 𒄠	{ □
4 𒐏	L 𒇷	d 𒁲	| 𒐐
5 𒐊	M 𒈨	e 𒐊	} 𒀭
6 𒐊	N 𒉈	f 𒆠	
7 𒁹	O 𒊊	g 𒂵	
8 𒐉	P 𒉺	h 𒄩	

2 Writing System

[3, 4]
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)

a   i   u
a   i   u

2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.

k/ka	ku	x/xa	g/ga	gu	c/ca	ç/ça	j/ja	ji	t/ta
k	K	x	g	G	C	c	j	J	t

𐎬	𐎰	𐎭	𐎮	𐎯	𐎱	𐎳	𐎲	𐎴	𐎴	𐎶
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

𐎷	𐎸	𐎹	𐎺	𐎻	𐎼	𐎽	𐎾	𐎿	𐏀	𐏁
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

𐏃
h/ha
h

2.3 Logograms (Signs That Stand for a Whole Word)

𐏋	𐏂	𐏃 𐏄	𐏇	𐏈 𐏉	𐏉
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 1-8[2]

1. 𐎠 𐎭 𐎶 𐎠 𐎭 𐎠 𐎼 𐎹 𐎺 𐎢 𐏁 𐎠

If you walk $\begin{array}{c}\text{left}\\\text{right}\end{array}$, you will see a $\begin{array}{c}\text{house}\\\text{boat}\end{array}$ with $\begin{array}{c}\text{an old man}\\\text{a cat}\end{array}$.

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.

- 𐎭 𐎠 𐎶: (Pronoun) I

References

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