

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

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## 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

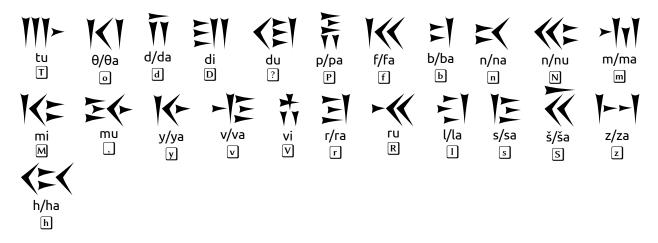
#### 2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



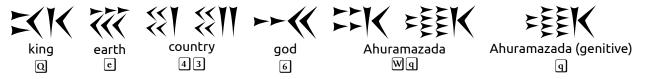
#### 2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

The consonant signs are syllabic, i.e.





#### 2.3 Logograms (Signs That Stand for a Whole Word)



### 3 Behistun Inscription

Figure 1: Behistun Inscription, Column i, lines 1-8<sup>2</sup>

- 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> egreg. How to typeset ancient Persian scripts in LaTeX.



- <sup>2</sup> Livius. Column I, lines 1-8.
- $^{3}$  Omniglot. Old Persian Cuneiform.
- <sup>4</sup> H. Rawlinson. *Memoir on Cuneiform Inscription*. 1849.
- <sup>5</sup> Prods Oktor Skjærvø. *An Introduction to Old Persian*. 2002.
- <sup>6</sup> Wiktionary. m ii → iii.
- <sup>7</sup> Wiktionary. **«Ⅱ № 〒 〒 ★ ★ 〒 ★**
- <sup>8</sup> Wiktionary. ᠬ ᠬ 닭 伏 닭 〈ෆ ]돌.