

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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9 11111 < < = {}}} ? **(E**) @ <; A TTY B ≓ C TY-D EII $\mathsf{E} \square$ F **!**≪ G⟨≝ H **⟨**⊧⟨ Ιţή J -<E K <1 LEY MK= N **≪**⊧ OKI P₩

R -≪ s ₹ T 111> U (Tr ٧ # WIK X «11 Y **/**← Z 1--1 1 *** XX a iii b =1 C T d īr e 777 f 1≪ g <11h **⟨**⊭**⟨**

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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

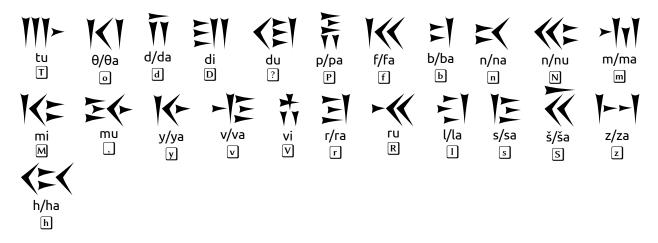
2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



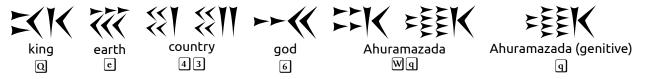
2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

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 1-8²

- 1. \ 前河州 \ 河河 国 体 下 (Tree of) 《 N 医 丽 体 K I 前 体 \ 下 下 日 时 (Pronoun) I Darius [4, p185] 8 Alternative form of 长 K 7
- 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.



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