

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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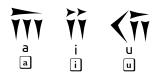
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2 Writing System

[3, 5]

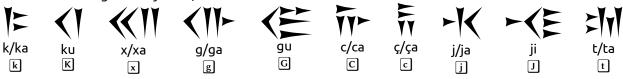
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are 3 vowel signs and 33 consonant signs

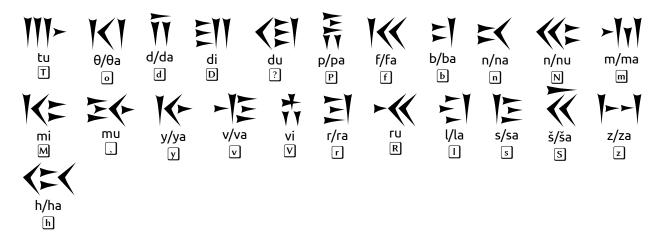
2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



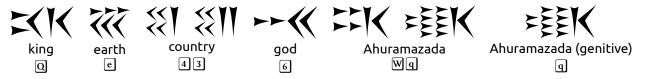
2.2 Consonant Signs (33)

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[2]

- 1. \ 前 fi hi \ \ 前 前 於 体 作 《 fi 《 \ (Pronoun) I[6] Darius[4].p185
- 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

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