

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

! # <! \$ <!! % **⟨**;;; & (< !!!!) { **<!!!!** + {}}} **E**(-- {} < 0 ∢ 1 1 2; 3 %!! 4 **1 5 # 6 --- (7 #Y 8 1111

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₩

Q KK 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 **⟨**⊭**⟨**

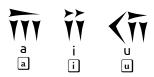
ίΫ i -K k ∤⊧ 1 E1 m -lvl n **≍**< O KI Pξ q ﷺ ΓΞ s 1E t = YY U (Tr V -IE W FEET x **«**11 y **/**← Z 1--1 { □ **\{\}}** 7

2 Writing System

3,5

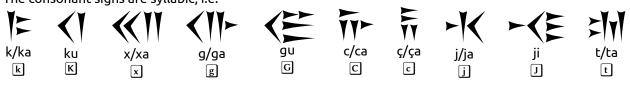
Old Persian is written in a cuneiform script, but with only a small number of signs compared to languages such as Akkadian. There are 3 vowel signs and 33 consonant signs

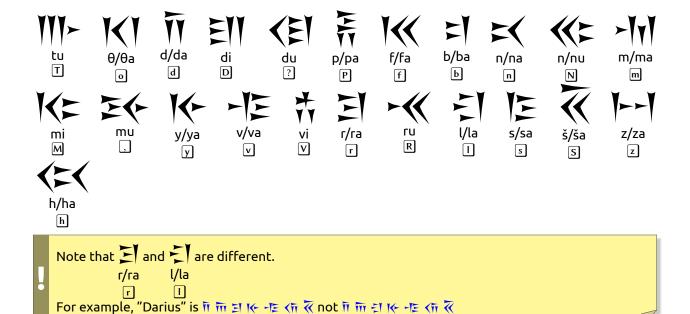
2.1 Vowel Signs (3)



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 市 州 ~ 「 前 田 休 一 E 〈 市 《) 《 II 《 IE 前 休 代 前 休 ~ 下 ト I 目 下) 《 II で 下 で K I 前 休 (Pronoun) I⁶ Darius [4, p185] 8 Alternative form of 大 K ⁷ great ⁹ ~ 《 II 《 IE 前 休 K II 所 长 前 対 前 対 III
- 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>1</sup> 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 m ⋅ l₁.

⁸ Wiktionary. ∏ ∰ ₹ 1 1 ← -1 ₹ √ 1 1 €.

⁹ Wiktionary. - ☑ 1-1 ☑ 1-.