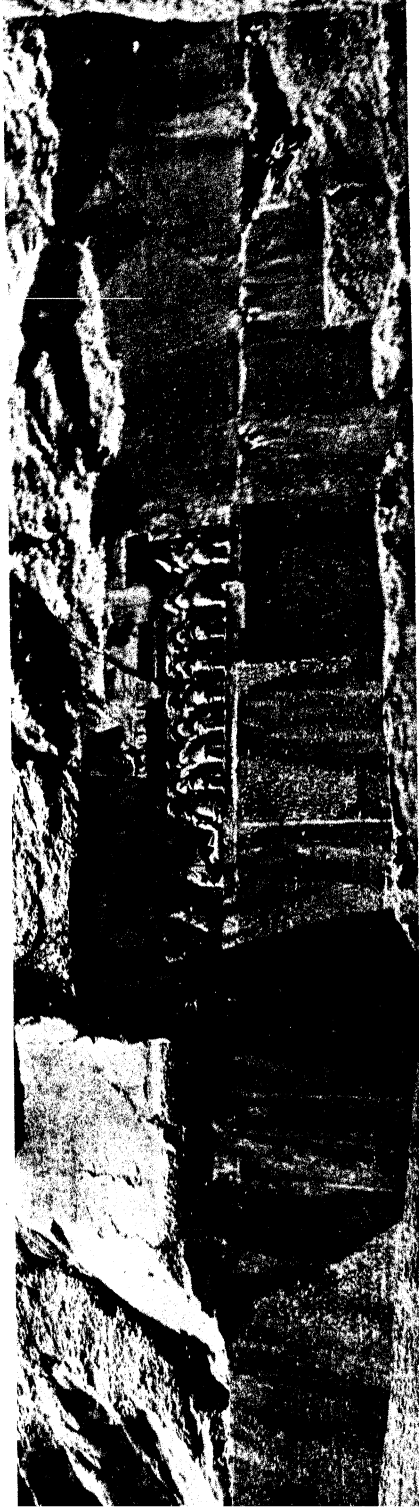


PLATE 1



THE INSCRIPTION AND SCULPTURES OF DARIUS THE GREAT AT BEHISTAN  
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# OLD PERSIAN

GRAMMAR

TEXTS

LEXICON

BY

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

1950

## FOREWORD

This volume has been prepared to meet the need for a comprehensive treatment of the Old Persian inscriptions; neither the latest collections of texts, nor the latest lexicon of their vocabulary, nor the latest grammatical treatment represents the evidence of all the material, a considerable portion of which is of very recent publication.

In matters of etymology it has seemed desirable to give a goodly representation to cognates outside the Indo-Iranian; not all those interested in Old Persian are primarily specialists in Avestan and Sanskrit. For greater clarity, stems of nouns and adjectives ending in *-i-* and *-u-* have been cited with *-i-* and *-u-*, rather than with the strong grade *-ay-* and *-aw-* customary among Iranists; but verbs of OP and Avestan are cited in the strong grade, though Sanskrit verbal roots are cited in the form fixed by the Hindu grammarians and customary among Sanskritists. The English translations of words and passages in the Grammar, especially in the Chapter on Syntax, frequently vary from the translations which accompany the texts in Part II; this variation is intentional, to bring out more clearly the point for which the word or passage is being cited.

Published views of my own on any of the problems involved, so far as they are inconsistent with the views presented in this volume, are to be considered as abandoned even though not explicitly renounced; at times I have considered it desirable specifically to condemn such older views of my own. References to my own printed articles are normally by the name of the journal only, unless there might be ambiguity.

To the American Oriental Society I give my hearty thanks for the opportunity of publication in its American Oriental Series, and to the Society's Editor, Dr. Murray B. Emeneau, and its Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ferris B. Stephens, for their labors upon the manuscript and the business management of the volume. To Mr. A. Eric Parkinson, of the University Museum in Philadelphia, I am indebted for the skillful drawing of the cuneiform characters which are

reproduced on pages 12 and 215. My grateful appreciation is also expressed to those numerous friends who during the preparation of the volume have shown their interest in it and have urged that it be completed without undue delay. My special thanks are extended to Dr. Erich F. Schmidt, leader of The Persepolis Expedition sponsored jointly by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the University Museum in Philadelphia, for generous permission to include new texts found by The Expedition and to use the evidence of The Expedition's photographs of inscriptions already known as well as of those newly discovered. This indebtedness is acknowledged in many places, not infrequently being made by the statement that data have been furnished by Dr. Schmidt or by Dr. George G. Cameron, formerly his colleague at the Oriental Institute, and now Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. Dr. Cameron has for years given me in every way the benefit of his direct acquaintance with the inscriptions and of his rich scholarship, and recently has transmitted to me the chief results of his examination in 1948 of the Behistan Inscription, with permission to use them although he had himself as yet not placed them in printed form before the public; to him, for all these favors, my profound gratitude is here expressed, though any such expression must needs fall far short of his deserts.

Finally, my unending thanks are here given to a small group of those who have studied with me, who—when the American Oriental Society found that it did not have at its command funds adequate to publish the volume—undertook to secure the financial support necessary to see it through the press, and carried their plan through to successful completion: Ruth Lilienthal Pearce, Alfred Senn, Maria Wilkins Smith, E. A. Speiser.

I must add that to Dr. Maria W. Smith is due also much of the typographical accuracy of the book; for to her the Editor of the Series, first because of absence in Europe and then because

of press of work, delegated the task of proofreading in his stead. Her repeated skillful readings caught numerous misprints that had escaped me; yet with all our care I dare not think that perfection has been attained, and I shall be grateful to any reader who sends me a list of such misprints and errors as he may discover.

R. G. K.

Wynnewood, Pa.,  
March 21, 1950.

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