Comparative Studies of King Darius's Bisitun Inscription.
Thesis, Harvard University, 2001, xxiv + 486 p.

Rüdiger Schmitt

Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/1475>

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2005

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Rüdiger Schmitt, « *Comparative Studies of King Darius's Bisitun Inscription*. Thesis, Harvard University, 2001, xxiv + 486 p. », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 26 | 2005, document 19, mis en ligne le 25 novembre 2005, consulté le 25 septembre 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/1475>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 25 septembre 2020.

Tous droits réservés

Comparative Studies of King Darius's Bisitun Inscription. Thesis, Harvard University, 2001, xxiv + 486 p.

Rüdiger Schmitt

- 1 The principal aim of the author of this dissertation supervised by the Assyriologist John Huehnergard, is to establish a stemma of all the known versions of the famous great and of the minor inscriptions of King Darius I. For this he examined 1. DB and DBa-k in Old Persian, 2. DB (including § 70 or "DBI") and DBb-k in Elamite, 3. DB and DBb-j in Babylonian, 4. the two fragments BE 3627 and Bab. 41446 of the Babylonian version found in Babylon, 5. the copy of the Aramaic version found in Elephantine, and 6. the short Aramaic fragment found in Saqqara and first identified as Bīsūtūn-like by Wesselius, BiOr 41, 1984, 443. In the first major part of the book (ch. IV, pp. 73-236), all these versions and fragments, arranged by way of short paragraphs, are presented in transliteration, transcription, and translation; the texts are in principle updated versions of the available editions by Schmitt (OPers.), Grillot-Susini *et al.* (Elam.), von Voigtlander (Bab.), and Porten-Yardeni (Aram.). Sometimes these editions are followed all too closely, whereas in other cases the author is able to propose new readings on the basis of new photographs taken by him. A second major part (ch. V, pp. 237-391) contains comparative lexicons of the four languages (with grammatical notes), so that one can see at a glance, e.g., that the counterparts of OPers. *pasēva* "after that" are Elam. *meni*, Bab. *arki*, and Aram. *'hr*. From these entries, one then sees that Elam. *meni* also renders OPers. *avā* and *avadā* "then", that for Bab. *arki* we find the same, but also OPers. *aparam* "afterwards", and so forth, and always with all references given for the language of the particular lemma. All in all, the book is thus an important tool for further work on the Bīsūtūn texts, even if it must not be used without appropriate caution.
- 2 As to the literary stemma developed by the author on the basis of the similarities and dissimilarities among the versions (additions or omissions of words, phrases or even paragraphs), contrary to the common opinion he assumes the existence of two *Vorlagen*

(the German word being used here), one (A) for the three texts carved at Mt. Bīsūtūn and a second one (B) for the other texts, i.e. the Aramaic papyri and the fragments found in Babylon. This latter *Vorlage B* must have been an abbreviated version of DB, the one sent “everywhere into the countries” (DB IV 92). According to the author, we have to start from an oral Old Persian text dictated by King Darius, which was written down phonetically in Aramaic letters (like the Naqš-i Rostam inscription in Aramaic script). It is on this description of the revolts only that are based the ‘edited’ texts with their expansions in the introducing and the concluding sections: both the Elamite and the Babylonian version, but also the Old Persian text engraved in cuneiform characters, which is arranged, however, in a slightly different way and moreover shows some minor additional changes. The *Vorlage B* is an Aramaic translation made at the same time as the Old Persian *Vorlage A* and “intended to be a diplomatic dispatch to the provinces” (p. 49). The very complex, but *grosso modo* quite plausible literary stemma of all the DB versions is presented graphically on pp. 56-57 in a figure which chiefly leaves one point open, viz. the way the casualty statistics regarded as one of the innovations of the *Vorlage B* all of sudden found their way into the Babylonian Bīsūtūn version.

INDEX

Thèmes : 2.1. Langues anciennes

Mots-clés : linguistique, lexiques comparatifs, vieux perse, papyrus araméenne, manuscrit araméen, Babylonien

Keywords : linguistics, inscriptions, élamite, comparative lexicons, Old Persian, Aramaic papyri, Aramaic script, Elamite, Babylonian

nompropre Bisotun = Bīsūtūn, Naqsh-e Rostam = Naqš-i Rostam, Darius

AUTEURS

RÜDIGER SCHMITT

Laboe