Jason Silverman. “Achaemenid Sources and the Problem of Genre”

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- 1 The author discusses the impact of attempts at categorisation of written evidence on scholarship by means of a few selected and well-known examples, including the famously widely misunderstood Cyrus cylinder as well as the Behistun and Daivā (XPh) inscriptions. Particular attention is paid to the Second Isaiah, which the A. after discussion of the most plausible alternatives tentatively assigns to the genre oral (dictated) poetry. He concludes that the text is less a direct source on prophecy, but that its main value lies in the information it conveys on the "communal cultural repertoire" (p. 272) of the intended audience.

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