Mark Tamerus. “Labour in the Achaemenid Heartland”

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This contribution focuses on the informative value of the Persepolitan archives on the question of labour in the areas under their purview. The A. briefly introduces both Fortification and Treasury Archive, discussing the ration system, i.e., the disbursal of foodstuffs to various types of workers, and pointing out the limits of the archive as exemplified by animal husbandry, which he classifies as external to the archives’ main scope. He emphasizes the terminological difficulties involved when working with these texts, giving as an example a brief analysis of terms sometimes thought to refer to ‘millers’ as a professional group.

Central is the discussion several words denoting dependent labourers; he treats the ubiquitous kurtaš/gardu in depth, calling attention to the diverse range of people included under this term, but also considers the less frequent puhu and mardam.
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