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Gian Pietro Basello. “Old Persian on Clay”

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- 1 This article mainly studies the archaeological context of the oversized clay tablet Louvre Sb 2789, an exemplar of the Old Persian version of the Achaemenid royal inscription DSf, searching for its function(s). G.P Basello believes that Sb 2789 could be a foundation document paired with the Elamite and Babylonian stone tables DSz and DSaa (to complete each other both for the language and the content) and they were intentionally buried as permanent records of the building activities of king Darius I, probably as part of a ritual ceremony when the construction started. Otherwise, it could have been a master text to be copied on the other text-bearers.
- 2 Furthermore, the article includes other arguments on the Achaemenid inscriptions and scribal tradition, e.g. inscribing Old Persian on clay tablets, bricks and cylinders; the paleographical aspects of the Old Persian cuneiform in Sb 2789 and Fort. 1208-101 (the only extant administrative document in Old Persian); the specialized scribes as the author of the royal inscriptions rather than the king (although he could be consulted in some major cases), etc.
- 3 Moreover, this article is rich in comments and references on the Mesopotamian and Elamite background of the Achaemenid royal inscriptions (regarding, e.g., text-bearers, functions, paleographical features, etc.).

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