Manfred Brust. *Historische Laut- und Formenlehre des Altpersischen. Mit einem etymologischen Glossar*

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REFERENCES

Manfred Brust. *Historische Laut- und Formenlehre des Altpersischen. Mit einem etymologischen Glossar*. Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachen und Kulturen der Universität Innsbruck, 2018, xvi+379 p. (Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft 161)

- 1 The present work defines its aim rather modestly: to assemble and present what we may reasonably consider as established knowledge in the field of Old Persian historical phonology and morphology, and in the etymology of its lexicon. That this is not a small task at all is obvious for anyone interested in Old Iranian philology: Given the ambiguities of the Old Persian cuneiform script and orthography (signs with several values, sounds that are not written, etc.) and the limited size of the Old Persian corpus (the result of which is that many forms in nominal and verbal paradigms and an important part of the lexicon are not attested), the interpretation of the extant inscriptions is fraught with difficulties and uncertainties, all the more since many words occur only once or twice, often leaving room for interpretation of its phonology, morphology and semantics.
- 2 The introduction (p. 1-10) provides some general background and presents the nature of the data and the sources used. The author draws on Schmitt 1991 for the Bisitun inscription (*The Bisitun Inscriptions of Darius the Great: Old Persian Text [Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum I, 1, Texts I]*. London) and on the very meticulous edition by Günter Schweiger 1998 (*Kritische Neuedition der achaemenidischen Keilinschriften*. Tübingen) for the other inscriptions.

- 3 This is followed by chapters on historical phonology (pp. 11-46) and historical morphology (pp. 47-83), which intend to update the respective sections of Kent 1953 (*Old Persian. Grammar, texts, lexicon*. New Haven 1953) and Wilhelm Brandenstein & Manfred Mayrhofer's *Handbuch des Altpersischen* (Wiesbaden 1964). An important aspect to be updated was the fact that both latter works predate the establishment of the laryngeals in the phonemic system of Proto-Indo-European, which are crucial to historical phonology and etymology.
- 4 At the centre of the work is the etymological glossary (pp. 89-334), which includes all words attested in OP inscriptions containing at least one full word form; also included are the personal names (which are otherwise often omitted in such glossaries). In order to establish the phonemic shape and the semantics, the author cites all attested variants of its orthography and systematically compares the Akkadian and Elamite versions of the Old Persian inscriptions, nothing of which had been done in a coherent manner so far. Where text passages are cited to argue for a certain morphological or syntactical interpretation of a given word form, literal translations are added to help understand the text.
- 5 A bibliography (pp. 335-357) and an index of words quoted from other languages (pp. 359-379) concludes this impressive contribution to our understanding of the Old Persian lexicon.

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