



ARTABĒ

ARTABĒ, the Greek form of a Median and Old Persian measure of volume. The word appears as a loanword in Achaemenid Elamite (*irtiba* and variant forms, often preceded by the determinative *GIŠ* “wood”), Akkadian (*ardabu*), Aramaic and Demotic (*ʿrdb*, also *irdabb* in modern Egypt). To judge by the Persepolis Fortification tablets, 1 *artabe* = 3 *BAR* = 30 *qa*, that is 29.1 liters. According to Herodotus (1.192), the *artabē* was a Persian measure equal to 1 *medimnus* and 3 *choenices* (approx. 55 liters). Suda and Hesychius say that the Median *artabē* equaled exactly 1 *medimnus* (approx. 52 liters). The Old Persian form of the word was **rdba-* according to Hinz, but *arta-pā/ā-* according to Eilers.

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