



ARTAXERXES

ARTAXERXES, throne name of several Persian kings of the Achaemenid dynasty. The Old Persian form Artaxšaça (really 𐎠𐎼𐎲𐎠𐎫𐎡𐎴, for the forms with *-ā/-ām* in the nom./acc. sing. are influenced by Xerxes' name, Xšayārša) means "whose reign is through truth." The interpretation in Herodotus 6.98.3 as *mégas aréios* "great warrior" is wrong. A misspelling of the Old Pers. form is Ardaxčašča on the vase inscription AVsa (Venice, San Marco). The name is also attested in the following forms: Elamite Ir-tak-(ik-)ša-aš-ša, Ir-tak-ik-ša-iš-ša, Ir-da-ik-ša-iš-ša; Akkadian Ar-ta-'ḥa-šá-is-su, Ar-ta-ak-šá-as-su, Ar-ták-(ša-)šat-su, Ar-ták-šat-šu, Ar-taḥ-ša/šá-as-su, Ar-táḥ-ša-as(-siš, -si-iš, -is-su), Ar-ták-ša-as-su, Al-ták-šat-su; Aramaic 'rḥšš and, in both the Hebrew and the Aramaic parts of the Bible, 'rḥššt', 'rḥššt'; Egyptian 'rḥššš, 'rḥššš; Greek Artaxéssēs occurs once on an inscription from Trallis (Caria); the common form Artaxerxes (sometimes Artoxérxēs) is a transformation of such a form, assimilated to the name Xérxēs; Latin Artaxerxes; Lydian Artakśassa-; not undisputed is the position of Lycian Ertakssiraza- (on the Xanthos stele: b. 59f.). Of the rock-cut tombs at Naqš-e Rostam, the second from the left is generally identified as that of Artaxerxes I; the two tombs in the slopes of Kūh-e Raḥmat east of the Persepolis terrace are usually ascribed to Artaxerxes II and III, but there is still doubt about the order. Inscriptions which can be attributed to a specific Artaxerxes are cited in the following articles. Others are: the labels of the throne bearers on the southern tomb (of Artaxerxes II or III?) at Persepolis (Kent, *Old Persian*, New Haven, 1953, pp. 155f.: A?P); a stone fragment from Babylon (F. H. Weissbach, *Die Keilinschriften der Achämeniden*, Leipzig, 1911, p. XXVIII; R. Schmitt in *Die Sprache* 21, 1975, p. 42); various seals and vases



(Kent, op. cit., p. 157; Sf, AVsa, SVsb-d [very probably to be assigned to Artaxerxes I]; a seal in Moscow (M. A. Dandamaev, *Iran pri pervykh Akhemenidakh*, Moscow, 1963, p. 97); and a vase from Orsk in the southern Urals (T. V. Savel'eva and K. F. Smirnov, *VDI*, 1972/3, pp. 106-23).

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(R. Schmitt)