



AZDĀKARA

AZDĀKARA (from Old Persian *azdā*– “announcement” and *kara*– “maker”), officials of the Achaemenid chancery, the heralds, who made known, for example, the government edicts and court sentences. The word is first attested in the form *ʾzkr(y)* in an Aramaic letter, sent in 428 B.C. to *Aršāma*, satrap of Egypt (Cowley, no. 17.5, 7). The corresponding verbal expression is attested in Cowley no. 27.8-9 as *ʾzdʾ yṯʾbd* “it is made known, it is announced.” In Old Persian we have (DNb 50) *azdā kušuvā* corresponding to *hwḏʾ* in the Aramaic version (N. Sims-Williams, *BSOAS* 44/1, 1981, p. 4); and (DB 1.32, DNa 43, 45) *azdā bav*– “to become known.” In later Iranian we find Christian Sogdian *ʾzdʾqry* “announcing” (F. W. K. Müller and W. Lentz, *Soghdische Texte* II, SPAW, 1934, p. 526, text 3.42) and Khotanese *āysda* (i.e., /āzda/) *yan*– “to protect, look after” with the noun *āysdagaraa*– “protector” (H. W. Bailey, *Dictionary of Khotanese Saka*, Cambridge etc., 1979, pp. 204).

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