



ČAĠĀNA

ČAĠĀNA, the name given to four types of musical instruments. This spelling is found in most dictionaries. Sachs' *Real-Lexikon* (p. 99) has *čaqāna*, and other forms are also found: *čagān* (Enjū Šīrāzī, II, p. 1425; *Borhān-e qāṭe'* ed. Mo'in, II, p. 643), *čagāna* (ibid., p. 646), and *čagba* (Dehḵodā, s.v.); in Arabic *jaḡāna* or *jafāna* (Ebn 'Emād, V, p. 148). The four types are:

1. An instrument of the percussion family also known as *jerengī* (i.e., jingle or rattle) instruments. Two varieties are in use. One has a spherical or oval case made of wood, metal, or a dried gourd, with an aperture through which small bells or pebbles are put in, and an attached handle. A dancer playing a similar instrument is depicted on a silver flask from Kalārdašt possibly from the Sasanian period in the Īrān-e Bāstān Museum at Tehran (Figure 30; cf. Ghirshman, pl. 256). The other variety consists of a piece of springy wood carved in the shape of a pair of tongs; the player inserts his forefinger in the gap and by withdrawing it at the required moment causes the bulbous ends of the tongs to snap loudly together. A dancer playing a similar instrument is depicted on a silver bowl from Māzandarān possibly from the Sasanian period in the Īrān-e Bastān Museum (Figure 31; cf. Ghirshman, pl. 257).

2. A rhythm instrument of the *qāšoqak* family (Farmer, Preface, p. xxiii), akin to the castanets of the Spaniards. It consists of two slightly concave pieces of wood attached to the other by an elastic band. It is still in use in certain villages in Fārs (Radio Iran Archives, report no. 6378 dated 16 Ābān 1341 Š./7 November 1962).



3. A stringed instrument of the “free string” family, played with a plectrum (*Loḡat-e fors*, ed. Eqbāl, p. 428 n.). According to the *Borhān-e qāṭe'* (II, p. 643), it was described by some people as the same as the *qānūn*.

4. A bowed instrument with three strings and played with a bow that Sachs states is found in Persia, Afghanistan, and Caucasia. A four-stringed *čaqāna* belonging to the *kamānča* (violin) family is found in Soviet Dagestan (*Atlas*, fig. 535).

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Figure 30. Musician depicted on a silver flask, possibly Sasanian. Mūza-ye Īrān-e Bastān (drawing Ḥ.-'A. Mallāḥ)

Figure 31. Dancer depicted on a silver bowl, possibly Sasanian. Mūza-ye Īrān-e Bastān (drawing Ḥ.-'A. Mallāḥ)