



## HAMĀRAKARA

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**HAMĀRAKARA** (\**hmāra-kara-*, lit. “account-maker”), “bookkeeper,” an Old Iranian title attested in various sources of Achaemenid and later times. It occurs in Babylonian documents in the following spellings: *hammarakara*, *ammarkarra/ammari(/u)akal*. Wolfram von Soden (p. 44) considered these forms as separate words, the latter having the meaning “*Proviandmeister*” (see, however, Greenfield, p. 181, n. 8). All the individuals who bore this title in cuneiform texts, to judge by their personal names, were Babylonian. It first appears in a document from Babylon drafted during the reign of Darius I (see Eilers, p. 57). Except for this document and *Royal Ontario Museum Cuneiform Texts* (II, No. 35), all other references to this title come from the archive of the Murašû business firm, which flourished in the Nippur region in the second half of the 5th century B.C.E. (see Eilers, pp. 43-59; *The Assyrian Dictionary* VI, pp. 59 f.; add now Stopler, No. 108). The bearers of this title were agents of the firm, a “bookkeeper of the king” and a bookkeeper of the important Persian dignitary Artahšar. They are mainly mentioned as witnesses to legal transactions.

The earliest Aramaic occurrence of this title is in an Aramaic postscript to an Elamite document composed in the Persepolis area in 504 B.C.E. in the form *hmrkr'* (Hallock, p. 140, No. 281). It also appears in an Aramaic document from Elephantine, according to which “accountants (*hmrkry*) of the treasury” were to issue some materials needed to repair a boat (Porten and Yardeni, p. 99, No. A 6.2). This title is also attested in letters of Aršāma, the Persian satrap of Egypt in the second half of the 5th century B.C.E., addressed to the manager of his



estates in that country and to “the accountants” (*hmrk*’, see Driver, Nos. 8-10). It is also known from Parthian and Sasanian bullae, where it is applied to finance ministers of various districts (in Parthian: *’hmrkr*, the Pahlavi forms are: *hm’lkly* and *m’lkly*, see Greenfield, pp. 181 f.) as well as from Nisa texts of the 1st century B.C.E. in the form *’hmrkr* (see Dyakonov and Livshits, pp. 146 f.). This word also entered Hebrew, Armenian, and Syriac (Greenfield, pp. 182-86).

See also [ĀMĀRGAR](#)

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