

A Further Spurious Inscription in Old Persian Writing: The Mummy of “Rhodogoune”

Rüdiger Schmitt

Laboe

Unfortunately scarcely any new inscription in Old Persian cuneiform and language became known in recent years, but from time to time some fake of such a text does appear. That is nothing new, for spurious texts of that kind were known to the scholarly world at least from the middle of the 19th century. So it is with good reason that previous editors of the Old Persian texts like Roland G. Kent¹ listed all those spurious inscriptions known to them. Perhaps it would be appropriate in the near future to complete those lists, even if it is only a warning for people less familiar with the Old Persian evidence and with the problems of making out a forged text.

With regard to this, the texts of the four inscriptions of a wooden coffin with a female mummy should at last be published and discussed in any case, which appeared in Karachi in mid-October 2000 and about which much has been written in the international press.² Actually these texts are not worth

1. Roland G. Kent, *Old Persian: Grammar, Texts, Lexicon*. New Haven, Conn., 1953, p. 115b.

2. I am quoting only one article a little more respectable than the various newspaper items: Kristin M. Romey and Mark Rose, “Saga of the Persian Princess,” *Archaeology* 54/1 (2001): 24-25.



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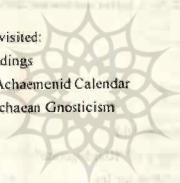
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پژوهشگاه علوم انسانی و مطالعات فرهنگی
Iranian Studies Journal

Nāme-ye Irān-e Bāstān

The International Journal
of Ancient Iranian Studies

Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring and Summer 2003

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Nāme-ye Irān-e Bāstān

The International Journal of
Ancient Iranian Studies

Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring and Summer 2003

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Published by Iran University Press

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NIB is published twice a year, in September and March. All editorial communications from outside Iran should be addressed to the Editor at the:

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Iran University Press
85 Park Avenue
Tehran 15134, Iran
Fax: (0098 21) 8725953
E-mail: IRD@iup.ir
Annual subscription rates (postage included) are \$20 or £14 or Euro 22.