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Elements in Writing in the Ancient World

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LANGUAGE AND SCRIPT IN ACHAEMENID AND HELLENISTIC CENTRAL ASIA

Rachel Mairs

University of Reading



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Language and Script in Achaemenid and Hellenistic Central Asia

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Rachel Mairs
University of Reading

Author for correspondence: Rachel Mairs, r.mairs@reading.ac.uk

Abstract: This Element examines – for the first time in a single volume – the written evidence from the ‘Far East’ of the Hellenistic world (Bactria, Sogdiana, Arachosia, Gandhara). It examines how successive invaders of this region, from Persia, Greece and India, left their linguistic and textual mark. It reviews the surviving Achaemenid and Hellenistic-period written material from archaeological sites in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan in Aramaic, Greek and Prākṛit.

Keywords: Central Asia, Afghanistan, Greek, epigraphy, Achaemenid Empire

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