45) Two Old Iranian Anthroponyms –


2. LB Sa-ma-ak-ku was an Achaemenid prince who owned a field on Nār-Madānu near Babylon according to I. Spar and E. von Dassow, Private archive texts from the first millennium B.C. (Cuneiform Texts in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 3. Turnhout 2000), 128: 4 from 26.I.419/8 B.C. His name is a -ka- hypocoristicon (cf. Stolper apud Spar and von Dassow, Private archive texts, 263); based on either Sāma-, cf. the Avestan name Sāma- “black, mixed with black” (see Mayrhofer, Die Avestischen Namen. IPNB 1/1, Vienna 1977, 74f. : 280) or *savah- (cf. Av. sauuah-, “strength, vigour, might, power”, Mayrhofer, Die Avestischen Namen, 74 : 276; idem, Zum Namengut des Avesta, Vienna 1977, 21f. : 4.3.7).

The name of LB Sa-am-ma-ku father of Gu-za-nu, who is recorded in an administrative document from Cyrus’ reign (Cyr. 379, 5, place of issue not indicated, presumably central Babylonia), may be West Semitic. It may derive from S-M-K “to support” (Aram. and Can.-Heb.).

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