64) Kansakka or Karsakka? – The Murašû Archive contains many Iranian names, one of which appears in BE 9 76:12, a contract drafted in 425 B.C. In their index of personal names to the edition of the text, Hilprecht and Clay have "Kar(Gan?)-sak-ka-ʾ" and connected this name with names such as Bagasākhq and Mhd"sakkhq[1]. A couple of years later Scheftelowitz[2] preferred a reading Karsakka, which according to him was related to the Avestan anthroponyms Kërësaoxšan-, Kërësauuazdah-, Kërësāni- and Kërësāspa- (all composed with *kërës-*, "meagre, skinny"[3]). This reading was adopted by Zadok, who reconstructed an Iranian name *Krsaka-, a -*ka*-extension of a retrenchment of a name composed with *krsa-*[4].

Dandamayev[5], however, rightfully questioned this reading, for the simple reason that the sign GÁN cannot be read *kar*. It can be read kár, but in Dandamayev's view kár does not occur in Achaemenid Babylonia. Accordingly he reads ᵐKán-sak-ka-ʾ and reconstructs *Kancaka-, with reference to *Kacaka- (El. ʰᵃˡKa$_4$-za-ka$_4$[6]). In his review of Dandamayev's book, Zadok[7] immediately replied to this objection: kár does exist in Neo-Babylonian and, moreover, *Kancaka- can only be rendered by ᵐKán-šak-ka-ʾ.

Some remarks should be made concerning this spelling and the underlying Iranian name. The first sign of the name discussed here is in all likelihood KÁN. Despite Zadok's opinion, *kár* does not seem to occur in Achaemenid Babylonian. According to Röllig & von Soden[8] this value is only attested in Neo-Babylonian and Neo-Assyrian texts. The three

1 H.V. Hilprecht & Clay, A.T., *Business Documents of Murashû Sons of Nippur dated in the reign of Artaxerxes* I (464-424 B.C.) (BE 9), Philadelphia, 1898, 61.

2 I. Scheftelowitz, "Altiranische Studien", *ZDMG* 57 (1903), 166.

3 M. Mayrhofer, *Die altiranischen Namen* (IPNB 1), Vienna, 1979, I/59-60.

4 R. Zadok, "Iranians and Individuals bearing Iranian Names in Achaemenian Babylonia", *IOS* 7 (1977), 103 and n.134).

5 M.A. Dandamayev, *Iranians in Achaemenid Babylonia* (Columbia Lectures on Iranian Studies 6), Costa Mesa, 1992, 93.

6 W. Hinz, *Altiranisches Sprachgut der Nebenüberlieferungen* (GOF Ir. 3), Wiesbaden, 1975, 144.

7 R. Zadok, review of M.A. Dandamayev, Iranians in Achaemenid Babylonia, *BSOAS* 58 (1995), 159.

8 W. Röllig & von Soden, W., *Das akkadische Syllabar* (AnOr 42), 4th ed., Rome, 1991, 14 no.78.

examples of *kár* listed by Röllig and von Soden come from two literary texts: a *kudurru* from the reign of Merodachbaladan II (721-710 B.C.) on the one hand and from an exemplar of the "Story of the Ox and the Horse" (library of Assurbanipal) on the other hand. Although the Neo-Babylonian and Late Babylonian syllabaries are not very different, no Late Babylonian example of *kár* so far has been discovered.

Zadok's second argument ("Only Kán-šak-ka-ʾ may render *Kancaka-") is dismissible, for SAK has a value *šak*[9] as a result of which the name can easily be read ᵐKán-šak-ka-ʾ. Any objection for a reconstruction *Kancaka- is hereby ruled out. One should, however, not connect *Kancaka- with *Kacaka-, as Dandamayev does. Rather *Kancaka- is a *-ka*-extension of a *-ca*-hypocoristic of a retrenchment of a name containing *kan-*, "to long for" (OInd. and Av. *kan-*).

Jan Tavernier (18-08-2005)

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[9] R. Borger, *Mesopotamisches Zeichenlexikon* (AOAT 305), Münster, 2003, 293 no.184.