

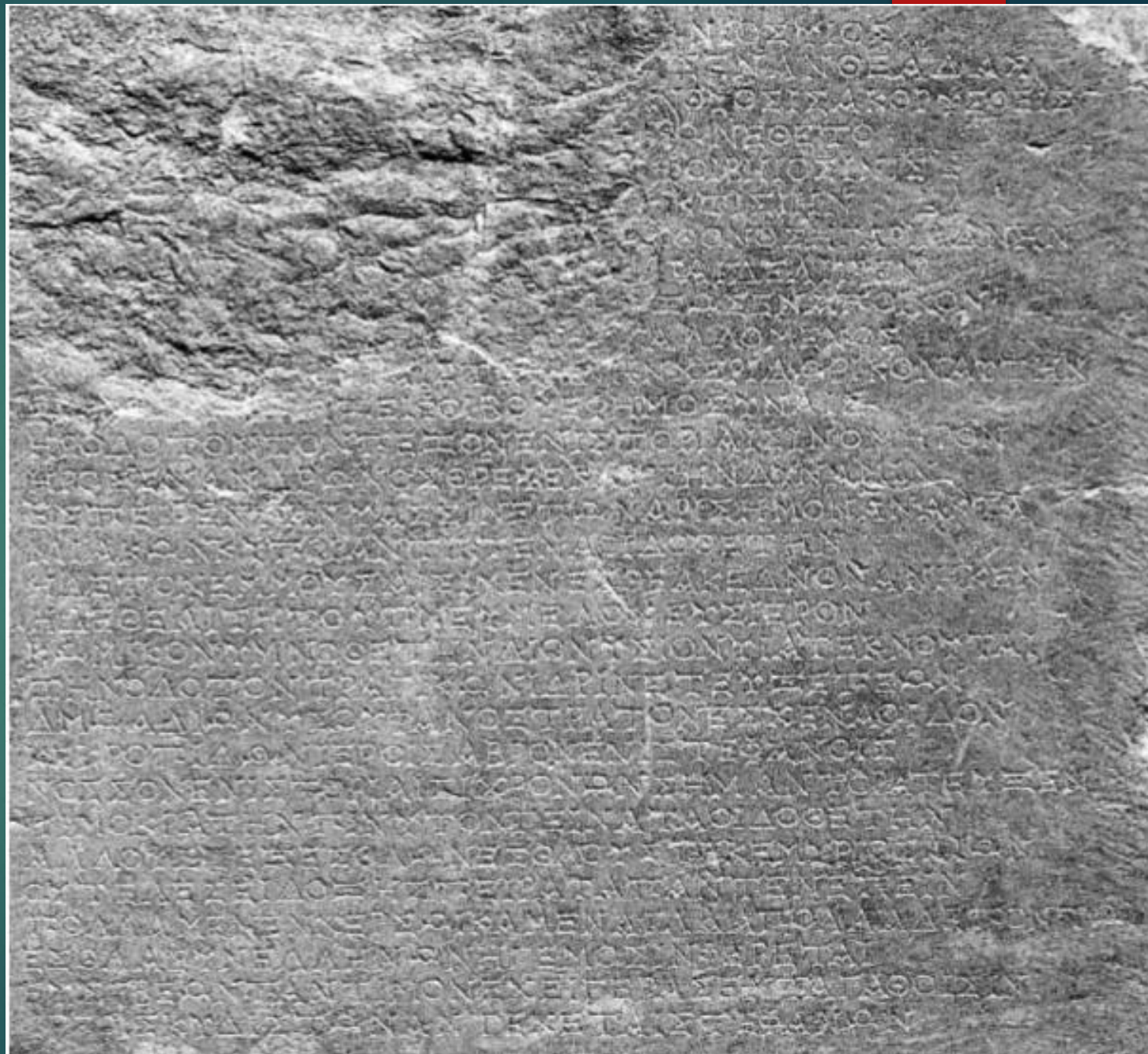


Epigraphy and Herodotus

HPAH5027/6027 – HERODOTUS AND HIS HISTORIES

Herodotus in epigraphy

- ▶ Isager 1998: Ln. 43
- ▶ 'Herodotus, the Homer of History in prose'

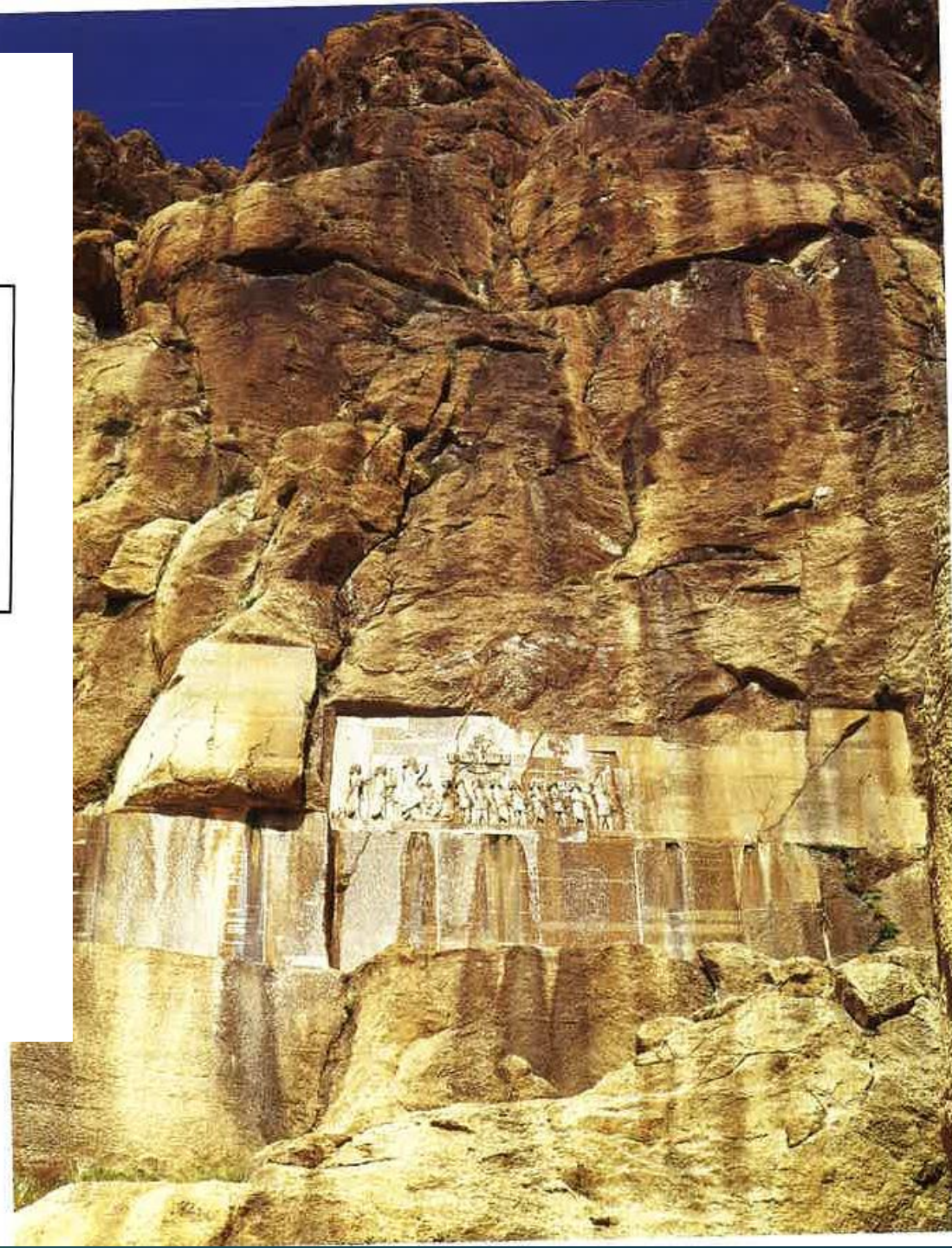
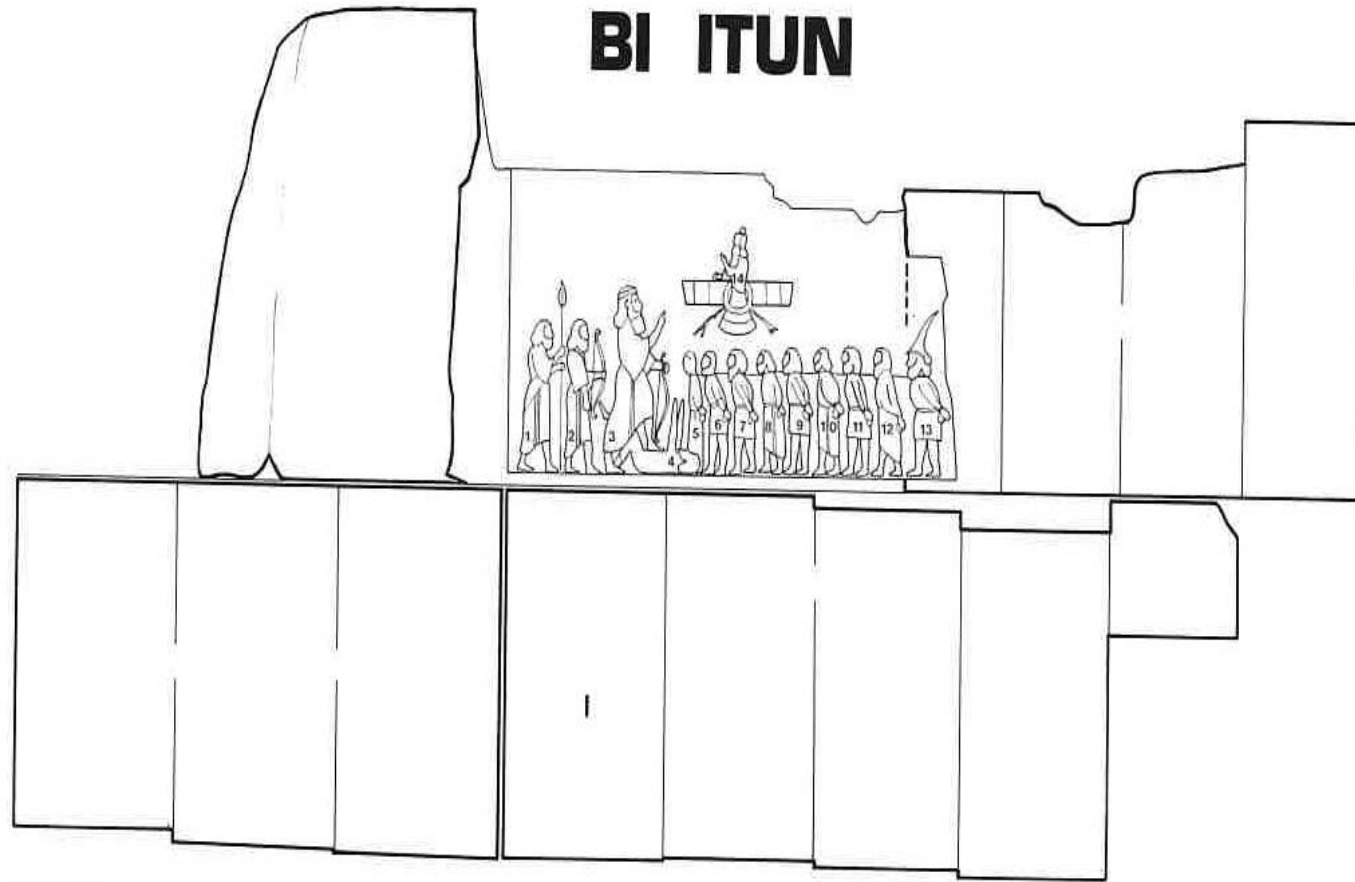


Exercise

- ▶ Using West 1985, find the passages in Hdt which she links to epigraphic evidence:
- ▶ To consider:
 - ▶ How much do you think Hdt used inscriptions?
 - ▶ How accessible would the inscriptions have been?
 - ▶ How does it affect the authority of the text?

The Bisitun Inscription

- ▶ Narrative of Persian king's ascension (Darius I)
- ▶ Inscribed c.520 BCE, on Mount Bisitun (also Bisitan, Bisotun, Bishistun)
- ▶ Trilingual:
 - ▶ Elamite
 - ▶ Neo-Babylonian
 - ▶ Old Persian



Translation available here:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full translation of the
Behistun Inscription](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full_translation_of_the_Behistun_Inscription)

Bisitun Inscription

- ▶ Bisitun OP, Col. 1, Ln 6:
- ▶ King Darius says: These are the countries which are subject unto me, and by the grace of Ahuramazda I became king of them: Persia [Pârsa], Elam [Ûvja], Babylonia [Bâbiruš], Assyria [Athurâ], Arabia [Arabâya], Egypt [Mudrâya], the countries by the Sea, Lydia [Sparda], the Greeks [Yauna (lonia)], Media [Mâda], Armenia [Armina], Cappadocia [Katpatuka], Parthia [Parthava], Drangiana [Zraka], Aria [Haraiva], Chorasmia [Uvârazmîy], Bactria [Bâxtriš], Sogdia [Suguda], Gandhara [Gadâra], Scythia [Saka], Sattagydia [Thataguš], Arachosia [Harauvatiš] and Maka [Maka]; twenty-three lands in all
- ▶ Cf. Hdt 3.89-97.

Bibliography

- ▶ Allen, L. 2005, *The Persian Empire: A History*. London: British Museum Press.
- ▶ Isager, S. 1998, 'The Pride of Halikarnassos: Editio princeps of an inscription from Salmarkis'. *ZPE*, Vol. 123, pp. 1-23.
- ▶ Kosmetatou, E. 2013, 'Herodotus and Temple Inventories'. In Liddel, P. and Low, P. (eds.), *Inscriptions and their Uses in Greek and Latin Literature*. Oxford: OUP, pp. 66-77.
- ▶ UNSECO 2019, *Bisotun*. Available here: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1222/>
- ▶ West, S. 1985, 'Herodotus' Epigraphic Interests'. *The Classical Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 278-305.