

## A Parthian inscription of Susa

### The stele of X<sup>v</sup>asag

A date close to the end of the Aškānian period is found in the stele of X<sup>v</sup>asag. Ašk. 462 – 247 = A.D. 215/216. In fact the monument belongs to the third year of the last Aškānian king, Ardavān. According to the Šābūrāgān Mani was born in the year 527 of the era of the Babylonian astronomers, in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the king Ardabān.<sup>1</sup> This establishes Ardavān's accession in S<sub>B</sub> 524, that is, A.D. 213/214. The Ardavān's first year began June 1, 213, Tuesday (day Ohrmazd, month Fravardīn).

Here is the Parthian inscription of the last Arsacid king, discovered at Susa in 1947<sup>2</sup> :

*ardaβān šāhān*  
*šāh puhr valayš*  
*šāhān šāh BNYt / dišt /*  
*ḥnsk /xansāg/ ēd cē*  
*ḥwsk /x<sup>v</sup>asag/ šūš*  
*xšaθrab*  
*sard iiii c*  
*xx xx xx ii*  
*māh*  
*spendarmad rōž miθr.*

‘Ardaβān, king of kings, son of Valayš, king of kings, built this strong building<sup>3</sup>, (which is) that of X<sup>v</sup>asag<sup>4</sup>, satrap of Susa.

Year 462, month of Spəntā Ārmaiti, day of Miθra.’

The Aškānian “Royal” year 462 began on Thursday, June 1, 215. The day Miθra of the Month Spəntā Ārmaiti of that year corresponds to May 12, 216, Sunday.

(Raham Asha)

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<sup>1</sup> . Bērōnī, *Vestiges*, 8.23.

<sup>2</sup> . See R. Ghirshman, “Un bas-relief d’Artaban V avec inscription en Pehlvi arsacide”, *Monuments et Mémoires publiés par l’Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, XLIV, 1950, 97-107; W.B. Henning, “The monuments and inscriptions of Tang-i Sarvak”, *Asia Major*, II, 1952, 176. According to Henning, “the monument in question was presumably a tomb stele, and the date was the date of the death of Khwāsak.” However, I think that the stele of X<sup>v</sup>asag speaks of a stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> . Parth. *xansāg*. Cf. Sogd. *xns δyz* ‘strong fortress’, *γns s’r’βγ* ‘strong tower’, *γnsy’kh/ xnsy* ‘strength’.

<sup>4</sup> . *Hv/ X<sup>v</sup>asag* < OPers. *ḥuv-asa-* = *ḥuv-aspā-* adj. ‘having good horses’, Gr. *Χοάσπης* the river name Eulaeus, Elam. *Uašba* pr. n. m.