



GNU Hackers Meeting 2017

GNU Behistun Historical Context and Free Software Advocacy

Speaker: Christopher Dimech

Palace of Darius at Susa, Persia

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Palace of Darius at Susa, Persia



Deciphering Cuneiform Script

One of the earliest systems of writing invented by the Sumerians. It is distinguished by its wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets, made using a blunt reed for a stylus.



Gaziantep

Aleppo

Hama

Lebanon

Beirut

Palmyra

Syria

Syrische Wüste

Damaskus

Israel

Jerusalem

Amman

Jordan

Waššukani

Mari

Hatra

Assur

Mosul

Ninive

Kirkuk

Nuzi

MESOPOTAMIA

Tigris

Euphrates

Baghdad

Sippar

Babylon

Kerbela

Kisch

Nippur

Isin

Nadschaf

Lagas

Uruk

Ur

Basra

Charax-S

Iran

Zagros Mountains

approximate extent of the Persian Gulf until 5500 B.C.

Kuwait

300 km



The cuneiform script was developed from pictographic proto-writing in the late 4th millennium BC.

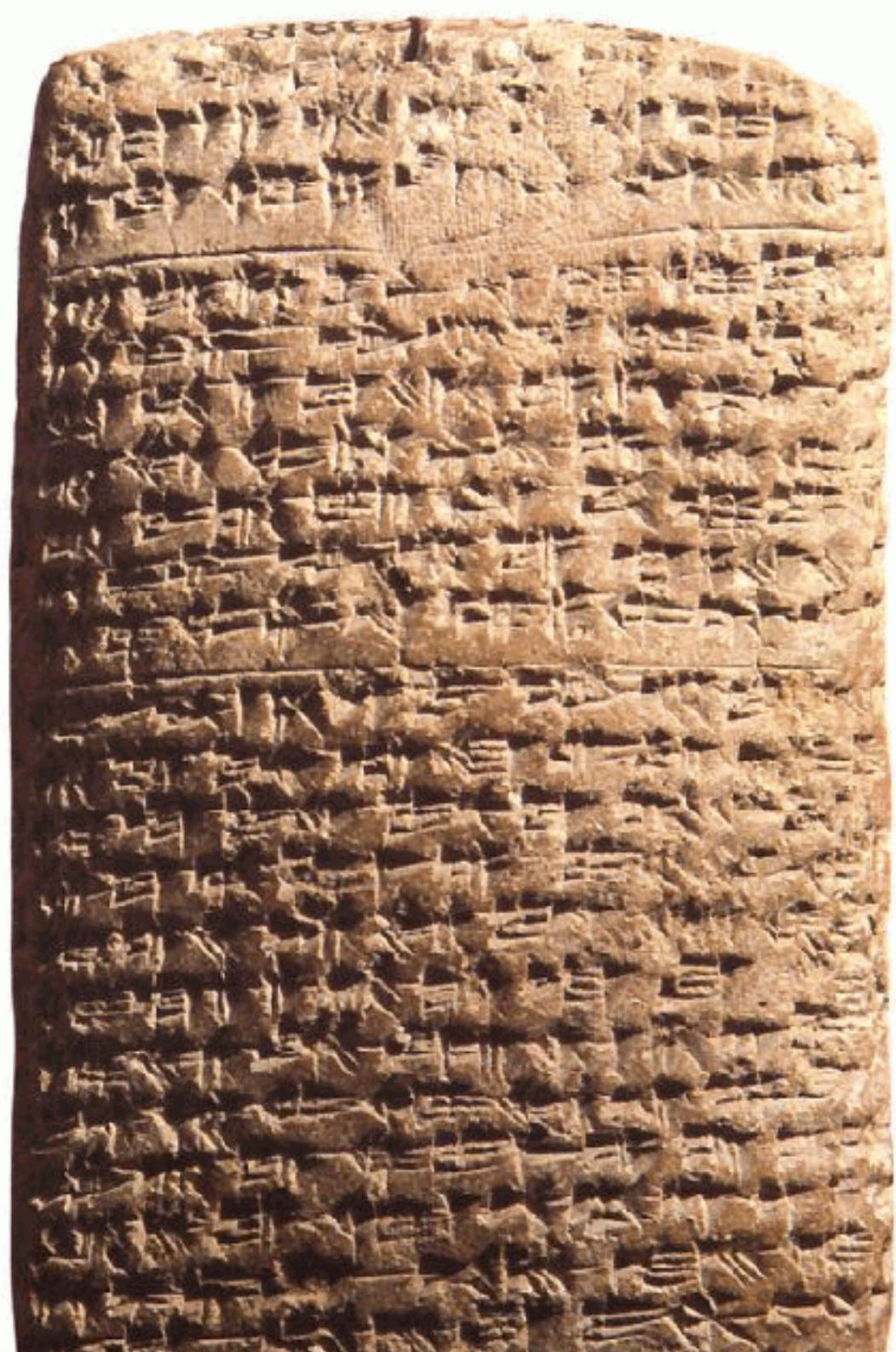
Mesopotamia's proto-literate period spans the 35th to 32nd centuries.



Hieroglyph pictograms at the ancient Egyptian capital Luxor



Aztec Sun Stone
carved between 1502 and 1521









Relief of Darius I in Persepolis King of Persia

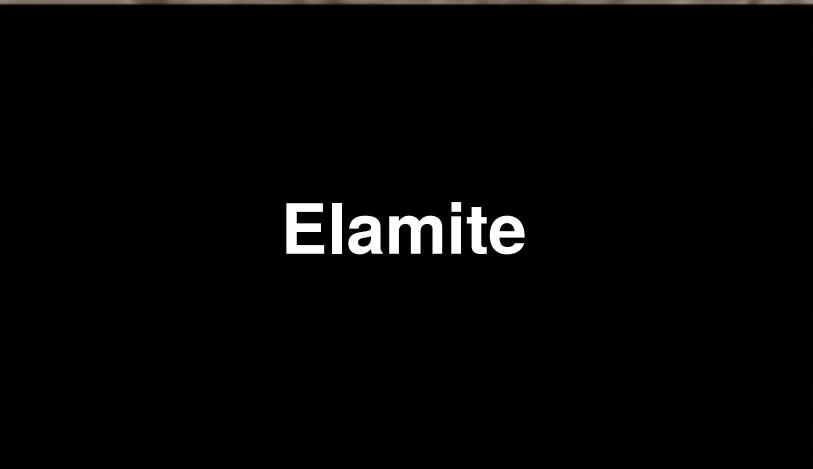
Full name

Dārayava(h)uš

𐎠𐎡𐎹𐎷𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎫𐎴𐎡𐎴𐎠𐎵



Old Persian

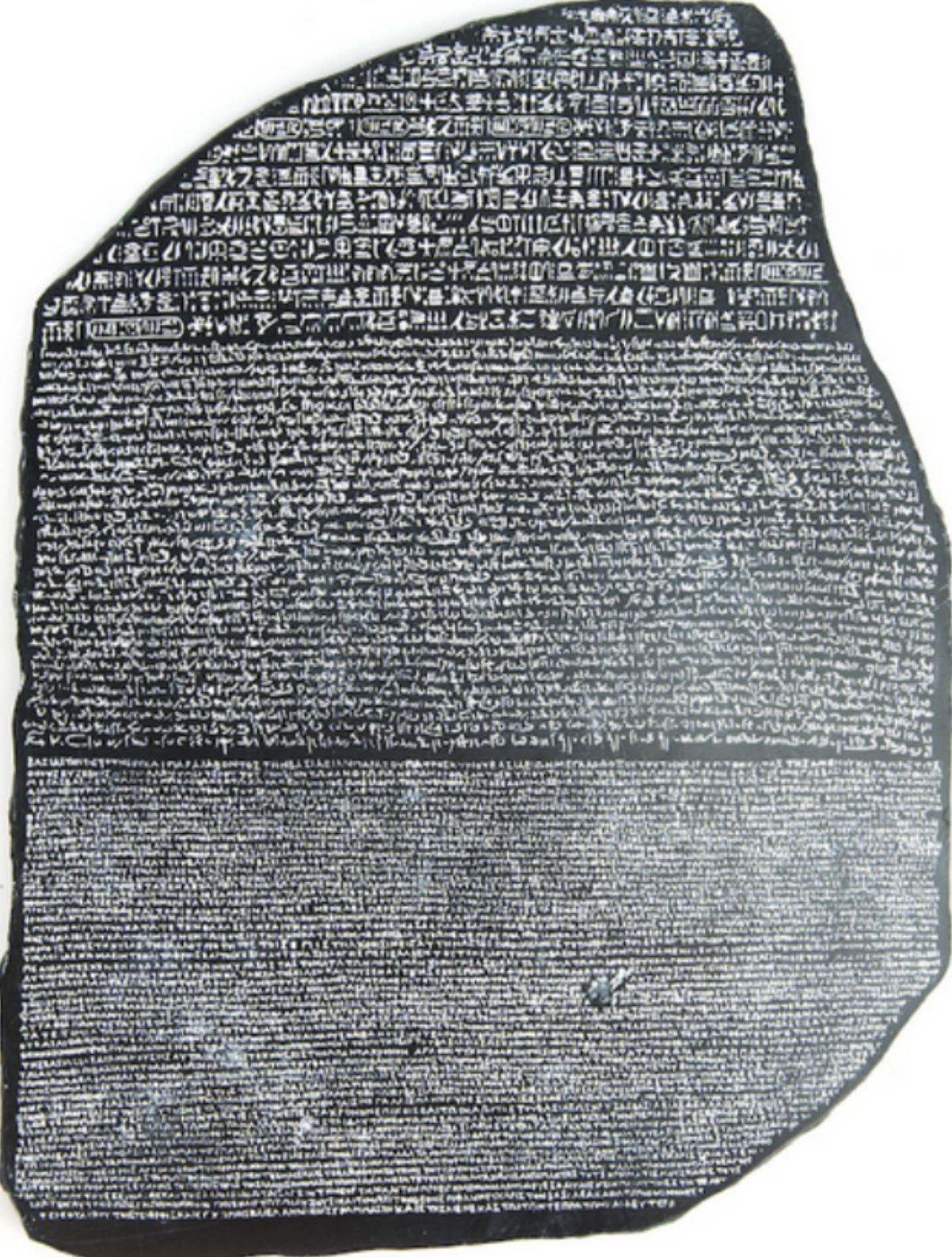


Elamite



Babylonian



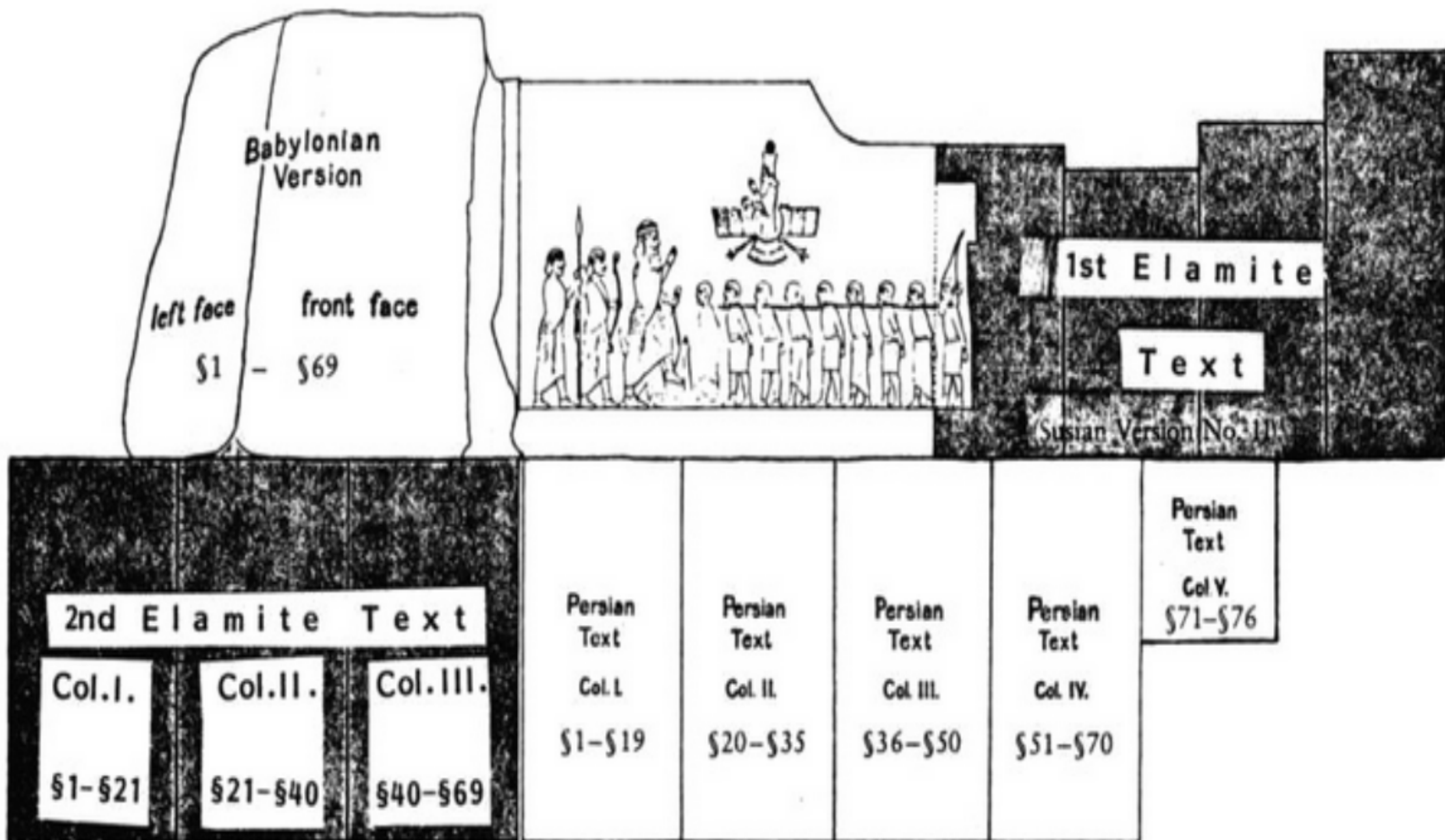


**The Rosetta Stone
Found in 1799, inscribed with
three scripts in 196 BC.**

**The top and middle texts are in
Ancient Egyptian using
Hieroglyphic and Demotic
scripts, respectively.**

The bottom is in Ancient Greek.

**The Rosetta Stone was the key
to deciphering Egyptian
hieroglyphs.**

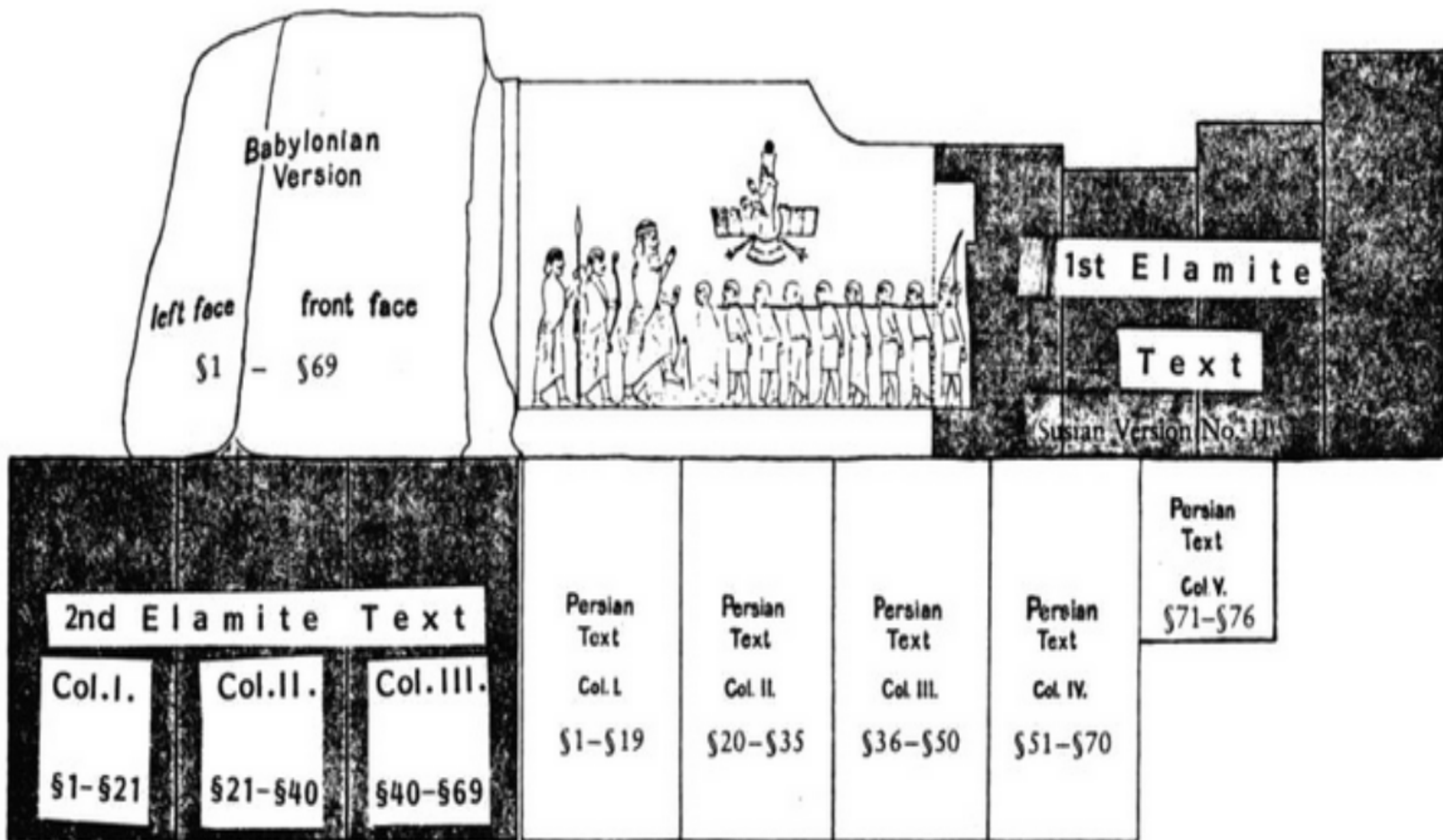


The positions of the Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian versions of the major trilingual inscription DB on the rock at Bisotūn. Source: King and Thompson, pl. VI; corrected by Borger, fig. 2; adapted by R. Schmitt



Gaumata (𐎠𐎡𐎴𐎧𐎺𐎠𐎹𐎡𐎹)

**Gaumata under Darius I's
boot engraved at the Behistun
Inscription in Bisotun,
Kermanshah province.**



The positions of the Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian versions of the major trilingual inscription DB on the rock at Bisotūn. Source: King and Thompson, pl. VI; corrected by Borger, fig. 2; adapted by R. Schmitt

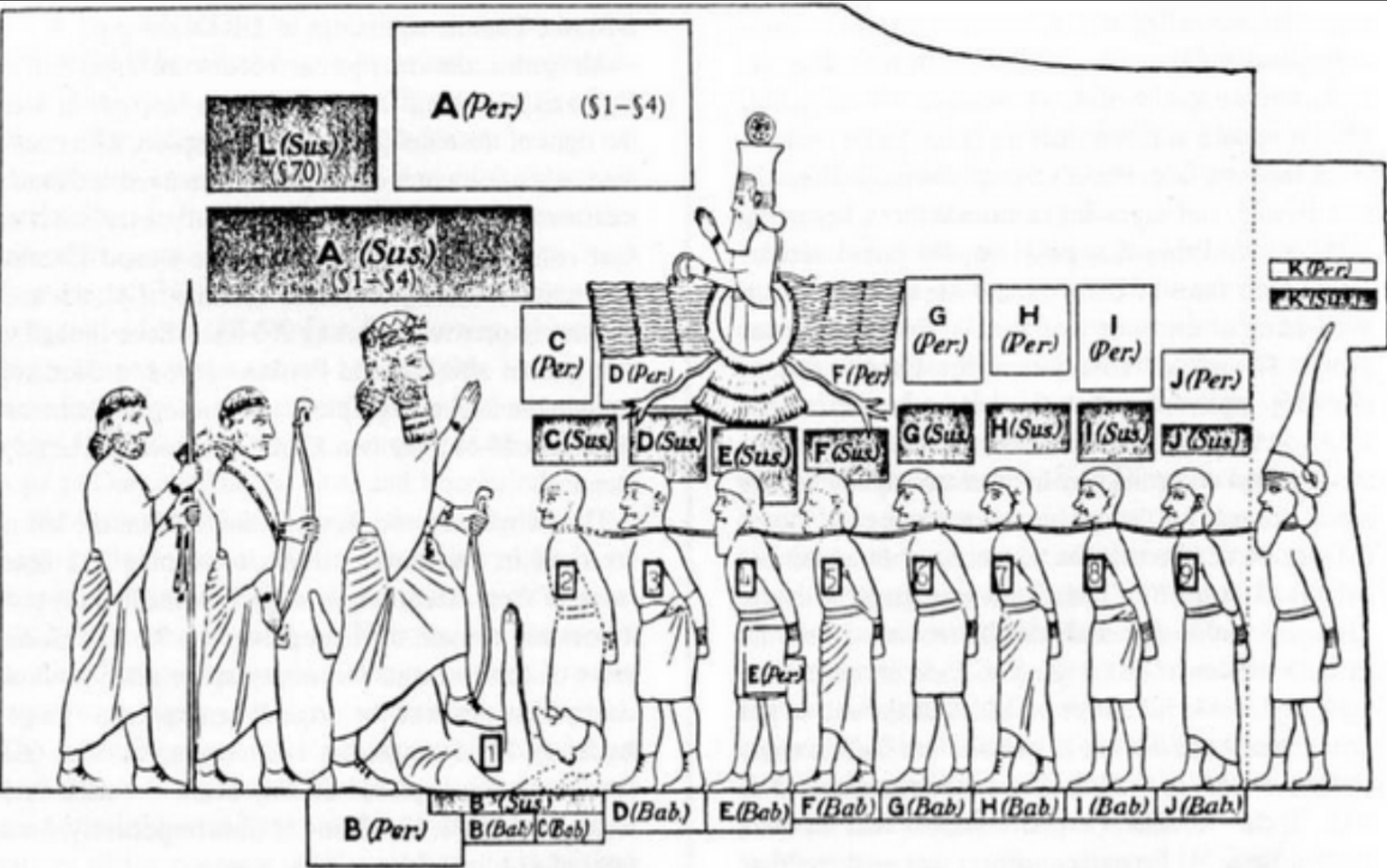


Figure 22. The positions of the minor Old Persian ("Per."), Elamite ("Sus."), and Babylonian ("Bab.") inscriptions DBA-1 ("A-L") on the Bisotun relief. Source: King and Thompson, pl. XIII; corrected by Borger, fig. 1.













**Herodotus, Greek historian.
A contemporary of Socrates.
The Father of History**

**Born in Halicarnassus
Persian Empire
Modern-day Bodrum, Turkey**

**Lived in fifth century BC
(484-425 BC).**

HERODOTOS
TARİHÇİ - HISTORIAN
Halikarnas doğumlu - Born in Halikarnassos
İ.Ö. 484 - 425 B.C.

**It (she) fell, my building, its foundations collapsed;
It was not the builders' fault, but the rock gave way,
Where I had hoped to find rock, I found loose clay
It (she) fell, my edifice, (that) which I had been building for so
long**

**And so, my edifice subsided, and I shall have to build it up again,
You change it to the site that suits her/it
Who changes his place, changes his fate!
For each (piece of land) has its own shape (features);
There is white land and there is black land, and red
But above all, (what) you want from it is a fruit.**

Xiden il cada ye gixoni tale mudi adurincum
Aqija's fil guezj uale nysab fo humorcom
Alb mchandehe chabim soltan uile mule
Bir igami - ximitine betraggi mar sule
Sen bayran al garca ne el fi tirag mngoh
Niti la vy wargia nimg d'eyom fil burhas il bah

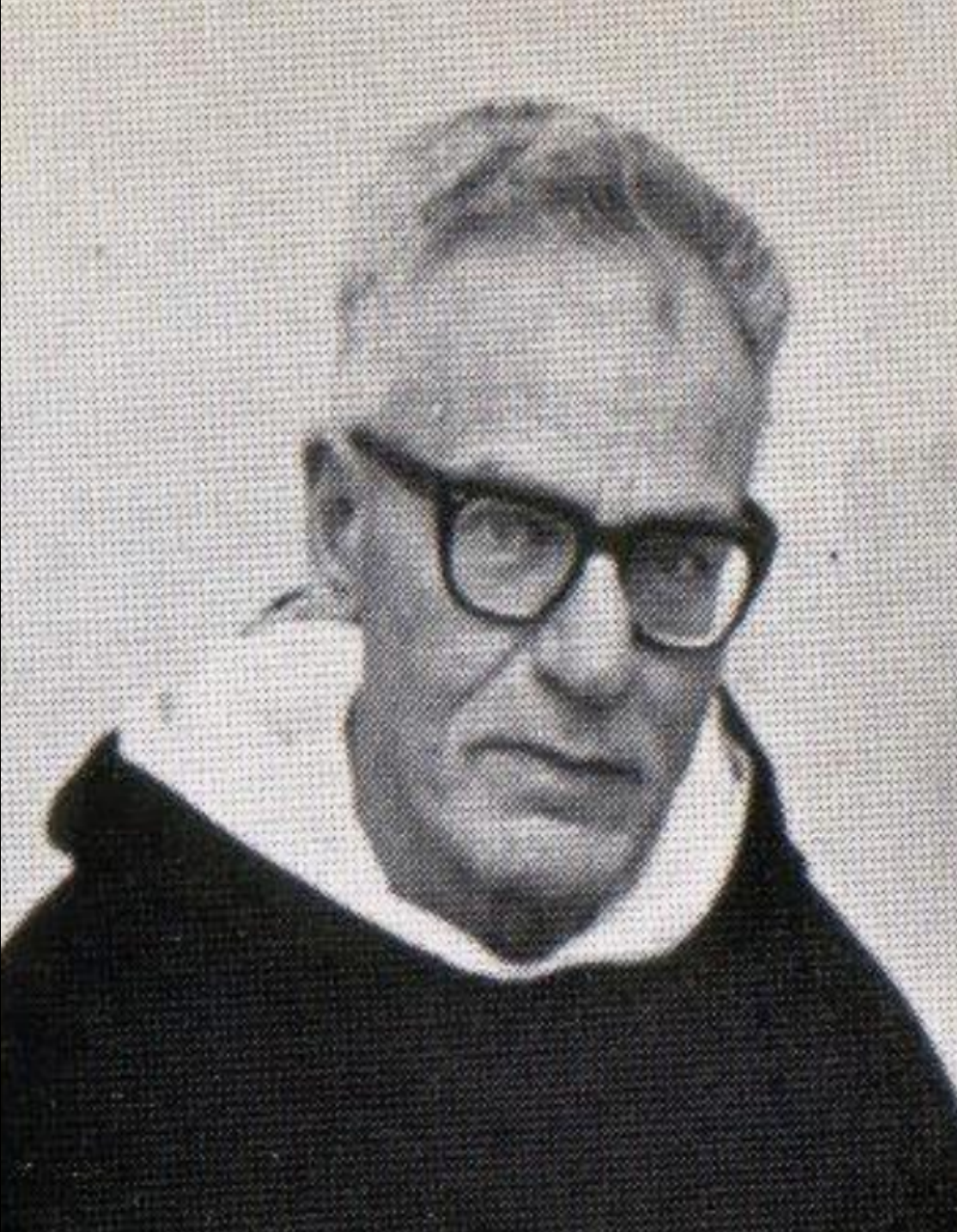
Hua'ait hi miramnti lili Zonen nibry
mestantia mballimi me' Btahi tafal mo'is
fon timaxt insub il gebol sib tafal mo'is
vackir hi miramnti

Huakut hi miramnti qizlit - hi li sison
mestantia il mballimi ma kumtli lig'el
fon timaxt isub il gebol sib tafal mo'is
Hua'ait hi miramnti lili Zonen nibry
Huer urabit hi miramnti vargia ibme
bididhe nite il miken illi yeutihe
Am ibidill il miken ibidul ul vmtm
haloo liradi al col ocbiz sira
hemme axil boyda hemme ard sonda at hgyra
tactm mm bedann heme tied mure tamme

Il-Kantilena is the oldest literary text in the Maltese language. It dates from the 15th century (1470s) but was not found until 1966 by Mikiel Fsadni.

The poem is attributed to Pietru Caxaro and was recorded by Caxaro's nephew, Brandano, in his notarial register

(Dec. 1533 - May 1563).



Mikiel Fsadni



Godfrey Wettinger

The Notarial Archives of Malta

Medieval Notaries



Notaries under the Knights

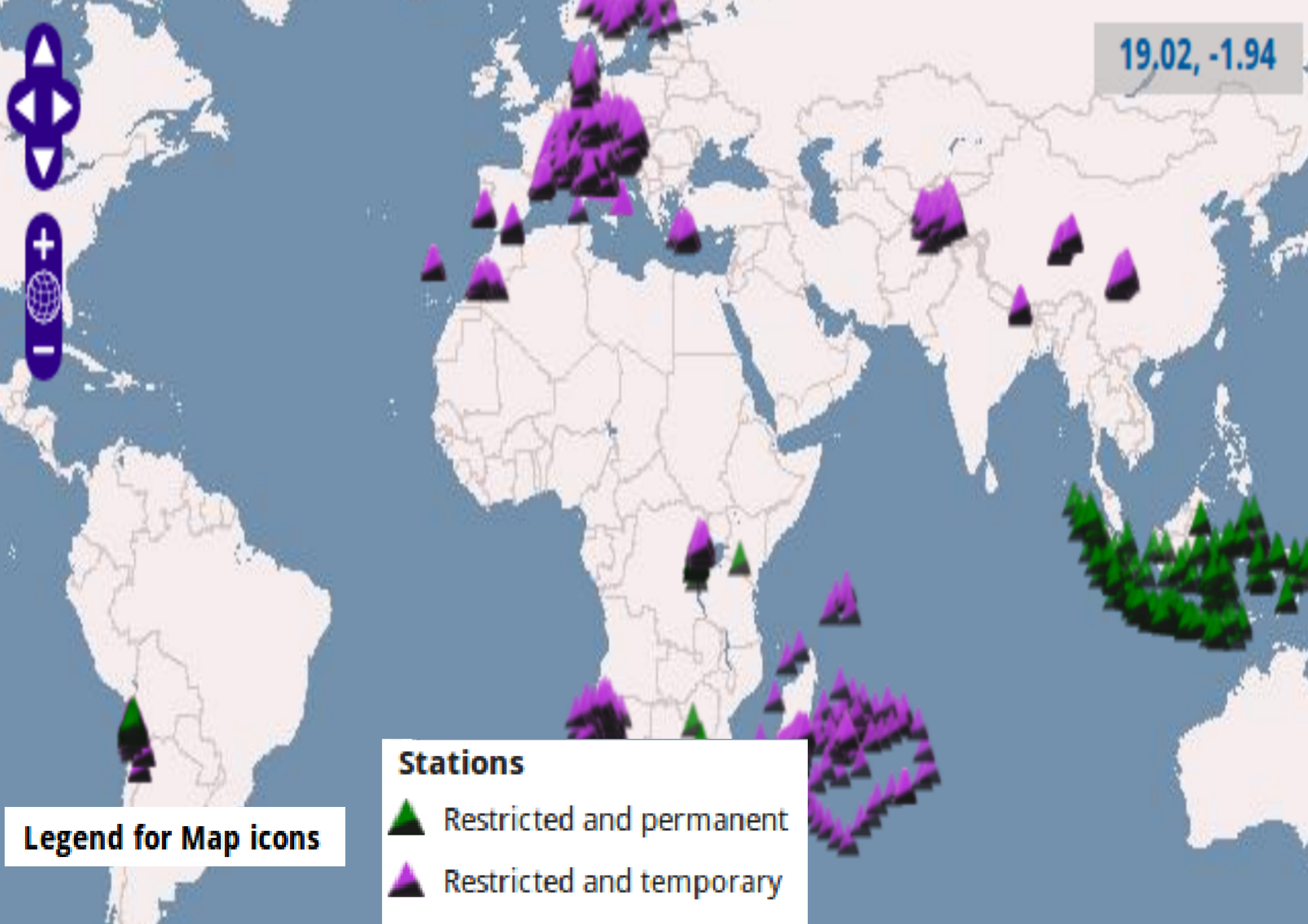


Handwritten text in a medieval script, likely Latin or German, with several lines of text visible on the left page.



Handwritten text in a medieval script, likely Latin or German, with several lines of text visible on the right page.

Handwritten text in a medieval script, likely Latin or German, with several lines of text visible on the bottom page.

19.02, -1.94




Stations


-  Restricted and permanent
-  Restricted and temporary

Legend for Map icons

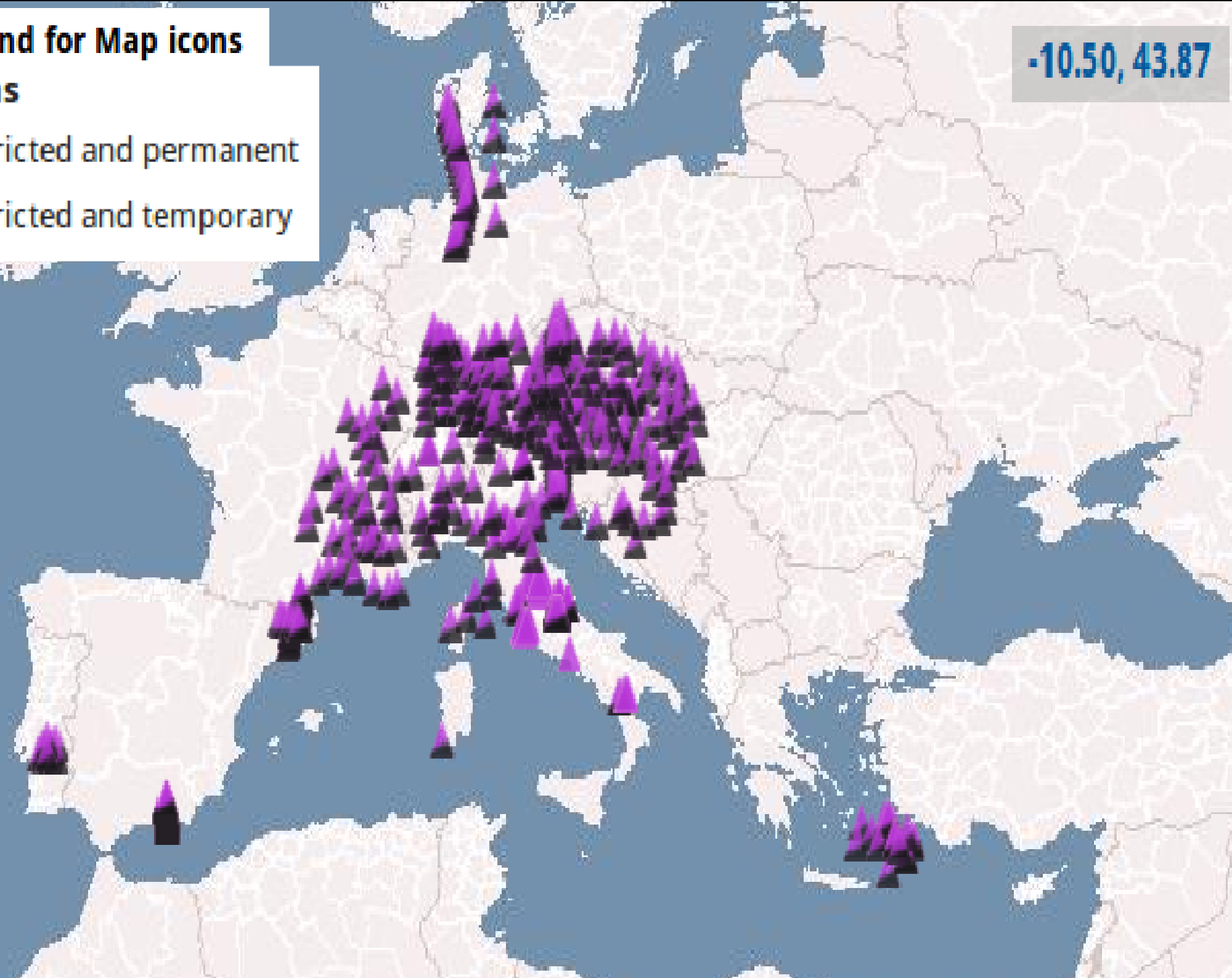
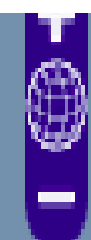
Legend for Map icons

Stations

 Restricted and permanent

 Restricted and temporary



-10.50, 43.87



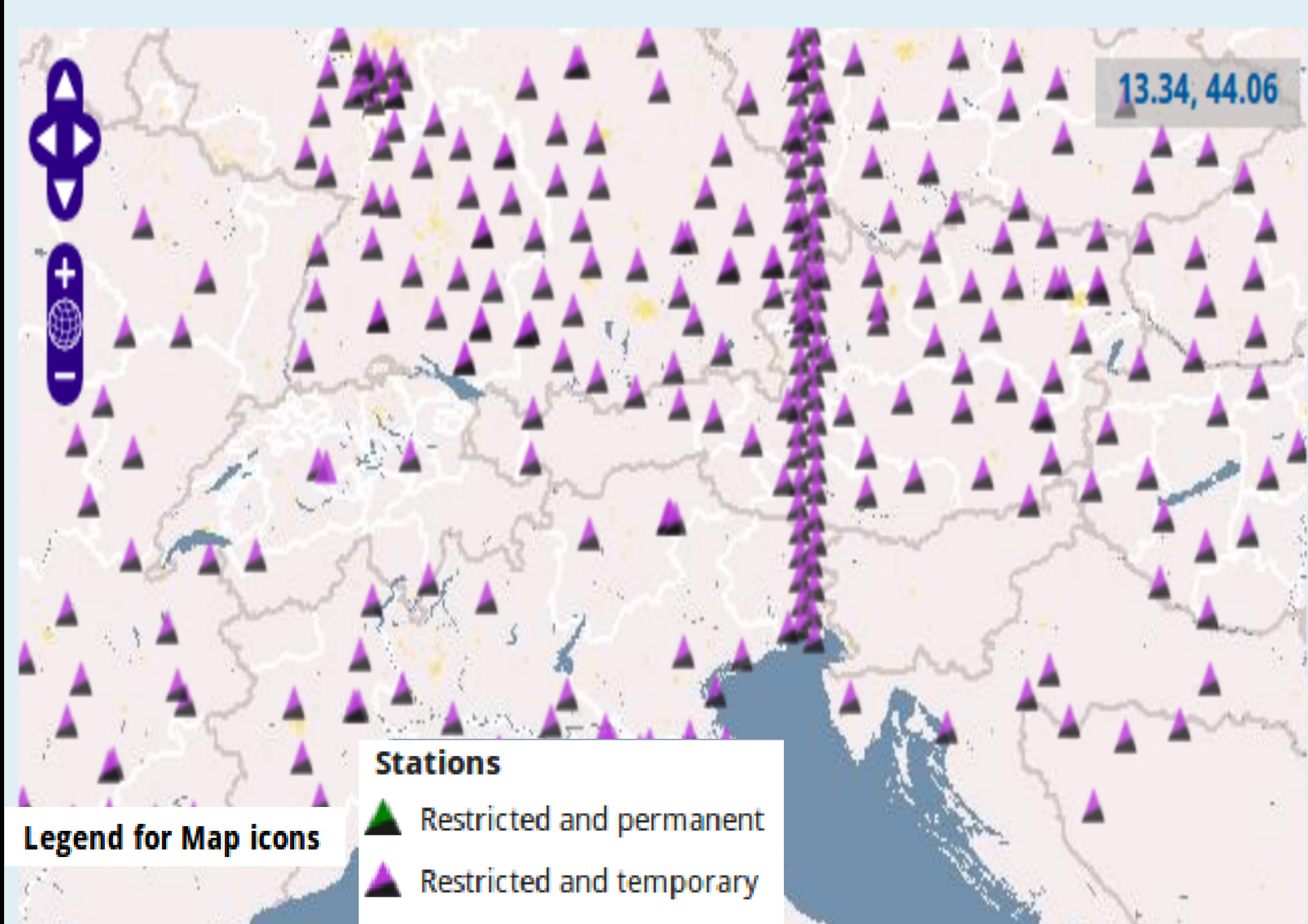
13.34, 44.06



Stations

-  Restricted and permanent
-  Restricted and temporary

Legend for Map icons



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1990. Romanowicz, Barbara; "The Federation of Digital Broad Band Seismic Networks".

Seismic Station Information

International Research Institutions for Seismology

<http://geoserver.iris.edu/stations>

Seismic Station Existing Network List

International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks

<http://www.fdsn.org/networks/>

Permanent Seismic Network List

<http://ds.iris.edu/mda>

Temporary Seismic Network List

<http://ds.iris.edu/mda#tnetlist>

Geofon Program

<http://geofon.gfz-potsdam.de/waveform/>

Explore Seismic Stations

Access to GEOFON and EIDA Data Archives

<http://webdc.eu/webdc3/>

GNU Behistun

<https://www.gnu.org/software/gbehistun/>

<https://savannah.gnu.org/cvs/?group=gbehistun>