

# Notes on the Bactrian Personal Name Σανδο\*

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Nel volume dedicato ai nomi propri battriani, *sub voce* Σανδο, Sims-Williams (2010: 124) non avanza ipotesi etimologiche e si limita a escludere possibili collegamenti con PIr. \*sanda- ‘volontà’. Il presente contributo avanza invece una ipotesi che individua nel battriano Σανδο il riflesso dell’iranico antico \*Sandu-, dalla radice iranica antica \*sand- ‘apparire, sembrare (buono)’, che può essere considerato la nominalizzazione dell’aggettivo protoiranico con il tema in -u \*sandu- (< Ilr. scāndu-), persiano antico (u-)θandu- ‘contento, soddisfatto’, vedico chāndu- ‘piacevole’. Tale ipotesi etimologica è supportata dal fatto che il tema \*sandu- è presente nell’onomastica iranica e in particolare nel prestito greco Σανδώκη (Hdt 7, 194, 1-3) analizzato da Rüdiger Schmitt (2011: 317-319) come iranico antico \*Sandu-ka- (o persiano antico \*Θandu-ka-).

In his book devoted to Bactrian personal names, *sub voce* σανδο, Sims-Williams (2010: 124) does not make any etymological hypothesis and merely excludes a possible connection with PIr. \*sanda- ‘will’.

The new etymological hypothesis proposed in this paper assumes that the Bactrian personal name σανδο is the reflex of an Old Iranian \*Sandu- from the Old Iranian root \*sand- ‘to appear, seem (good)’. The form \*Sandu- could be considered a nominalization of the inherited Old-Iranian adjective with u-stem \*sandu- (< Ilr. scāndu-), comparable with Old Persian (u-)θandu- ‘(well) pleased’, Vedic chāndu- ‘pleasant’. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that other Iranian personal names may be based on the stem \*Sandu-. Indeed this stem is attested as a loanword in Greek discussed by Rüdiger Schmitt (2011: 317-319). The Greek Σανδώκη (Hdt 7, 194, 1-3) has been interpreted as Old Iranian \*Sandu-ka- (or Old-Persian \*Θandu-ka-).

## Introduction

In his seminal contribution to Iranian Studies Rüdiger Schmitt dedicated a great deal of activity to the Onomastica Iranica, thus making a great impact on this particular linguistic field.<sup>1</sup> This paper will focus on a personal name attested in the Bactrian Documents (BD) edited by Sims-Williams (2000, 2007, 2012a, b). I offer this brief

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<sup>1</sup> Rüdiger Schmitt’s bibliography in the field of Iranian onomastics is extremely comprehensive and covers various fields in anthroponomastic studies. Suffice it to mention here the more recent fascicles of *Iranisches Personennamenbuch* (abbreviated as IPNB) such as Schmitt (2009, 2011, 2016), Schmitt-Vittmann (2013) and volumes in the *Iranica Graeca Vetustiora* series such as Schmitt (2002, 2006).