Marek Jan Olbrycht “The Titulature of Arsaces I, King of Parthia”

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Marek Jan Olbrycht "The Titulature of Arsaces I, King of Parthia", *Parthica*, 15, 2013 [2014], p. 63-74

- 1 M. Olbrycht presents here some considerations concerning the titles adopted in his coins by Arsaces, the first ruler of the Parthian dynasty. The contribution focuses on the titles of *autocrator* and *karan*. The first was used by the successors of Alexander and therefore links Arsaces with the royal tradition of the Diadochi. *Karan/krny* was a title widely used in the Achaemenid satrapal system of provincial administration. This suggests that Arsaces was interested in establishing connections with both ruling cultures: the Greek and the Persian. Furthermore, both titles refer to a ruler who reached power after a military victory and whose claim to the throne has no genealogical legitimization, but relied only on his armies. This indicates that Arsaces was looking for new forms of propaganda, though re-using elements of previous royal traditions.

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