Hamidreza P. Zanous, Juping Yang. “Arsacid Cities in the Hanshu and Houhanshu”

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The authors of this paper focus on the precious information from the Chinese sources, and in particular the Annals of the Former Han and the Annals of the Later Han, can provide about the Arsacid Empire. The main problem concerning these sources is the correct identification of the place names mentioned with actual places within or outside the Parthia. The Parthian empire is normally called Anxi by Chinese chroniclers, probably a transcription of the kings’ name Arsakes. It designates Parthia proper and the country where the most ancient Arsacid cities lay: Nisa (Fandou = Parthava), Hedu (Hecatompylos) and Mulu (Merv). The semi-independent kingdom of Wuyishali is identified with the area of the Indo-Parthian kingdom, later occupied by the Kushans. The geographical identity of places further west like Aman is still discussed, while Sabin seem s to refer to Susa and Yuluo to Characene, also called Tiaozhi in the later Han Annals.
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