Johannes Haubold. "History and Historiography in the Early Parthian Diaries"

Leonardo Gregoratti

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Johannes Haubold. "History and Historiography in the Early Parthian Diaries" in Johannes Haubold, John Steele, Kathryn Stevens (eds.). *Keeping Watch in Babylon. The Astronomical Diaries in Context*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2019, p. 269-293

- 1 The author provides a summary of the problematic and complex events registered by the diaries during the troubled period between the end of the Seleucid rule and the coming of the Parthians. Aim of the author is to show how historical references in the diaries were not a mere list of events, but a series of connected elements organised to form a historical narration. What is surprising it is the almost total absence of Parthian Studies, made more disappointing by the claimed effort of "contextualisation" of the astronomical series expressed in the volume's title. An isolated reference to Grajetzki's volume (!) and few to the now 20 years old Schuol's one concerning Mesene denote a complete indifference for the more recent Parthian historiographical research and more in general for historians' research on the Arsacid, an issue present in the whole volume with few exceptions. This, despite the presence of experts of Parthian history and frontier studies in the small department where the original meeting on the topic took place.

AUTHORS

LEONARDO GREGORATTI

Durham University