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Daniela Motta. "Caracalla e i Parti in Erodiano: fra disegno ecumenico e inganno", *Ὀρμος: Ricerche di Storia Antica*, n.s. 12, 2020, p. 270-289.

- 1 The author analyses the well-known passage by Herodian where emperor Caracalla proposes to marry one of his daughters to find an agreement with King Artabanus IV of Parthia. According to the author, if the novelistic features in the narration of the wedding and the following onslaught of noble Parthians speak for an invention of the historian, the political ideas behind that proposal were genuine and in line with Caracalla's propaganda. The wedding offer and the reason for that, that is to say, the chance of unifying the destiny of the two empires or at least of Rome and part of the Arsacid kingdom fits well into the universal aspirations of Caracalla's rule. Therefore, diplomatic contacts aimed at discussing a possible dynastic unification in the footsteps of Alexander the Great took place. These elements of Caracalla's political communication were picked up by Herodian and deformed them, adding with the intent of discrediting the emperor the treacherous plan that those understandable reasons, in fact, concealed.

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