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Fabrizio Sinisi. "The last Arsacid tetradrachms" in Martin Baer, Wolfgang Fischer-Bossert, Nikolaus Schindel (eds.). *Cista mystica: Festschrift für Wolfgang Szaivert*. Wien: Österreichische Forschungsgesellschaft für Numismatik, 2020, p. 461-474.

- 1 In this contribution, the expert of Arsacid coinage Fabrizio Sinisi, once again, through an accurate analysis of the numismatic source, dismantles old and consolidated convictions changing the history of the Parthian empire. In this case, in particular, the scholar focuses on the monetary issues of one of the last two Great Kings of Parthia, Vologases V (according to Sinisi's enumeration). So far, the *communis opinio* so far had this king minting coins in Ctesiphon between 208/9 and 218/9 AD and then again in 227/8 AD after his brother Artabanus' defeat by Ardashir. This convinced the historians that Vologases V was the last Arsacid king, able to organise a form of resistance against the Sassanid, the last stand, around Ctesiphon in 227/8 AD. Sinisi took into consideration all Vologases V's coins and focused on the legend of the two specimens where the date 227/8 AD could be read. He concludes that a flawed rendering of the letters that made the date led previous scholars to misread the two legends. Thus, there was no last stand by Vologases V in 227/8 AD. That king ceased to mint coins one decade earlier. Therefore, the last Arsacid king was Artabanus IV, who met his fate in 224 AD, trampled by the hooves of Ardashir's battle horse as depicted at Naqsh-e Rostam.

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