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Gillian Ramsey. "Generals and Cities in Late-Seleukid and Early-Parthian Babylonia" in Altay Coşkun and David Engels (eds.), *Rome and the Seleukid East Selected Papers from Seleukid Study Day V*, Brussels, 21–23 August 2015, *Latomus* 160, Bruxelles, 2019, p. 435-456.

- 1 The paper deals with the local ruling system in Babylonia and, in particular, with the office of the four generals of Babylonia. This local administrative institution established by the Seleucids was maintained by the Arsacids and played a fundamental role during the early troubled decades of Parthian rule over central Mesopotamia. The *Astronomical Diaries* consider these institutions an expression of the local administration even though in the Parthian period, the connections between generals and central authority were tighter and the royal influence on the cities stronger. If one side the local institutions are maintained by the Arsacids on the other, the autonomy enjoyed by those holding them seems to increase in the period between the end of the Seleucid rule and the firm establishment of the Parthian one. In some cases, they seem to acquire the tracts of a personal and independent power with its own opportunistic political agenda. Noteworthy is how the diaries describe the reaction of the city institutions of Seleucia on the Tigris to the increasing influence of the central authority through its agents, reactions aimed at re-affirming the city's political autonomy.

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