

To Crown and Not to Crown: Trajanic Representations of Roman-
Eastern Relations

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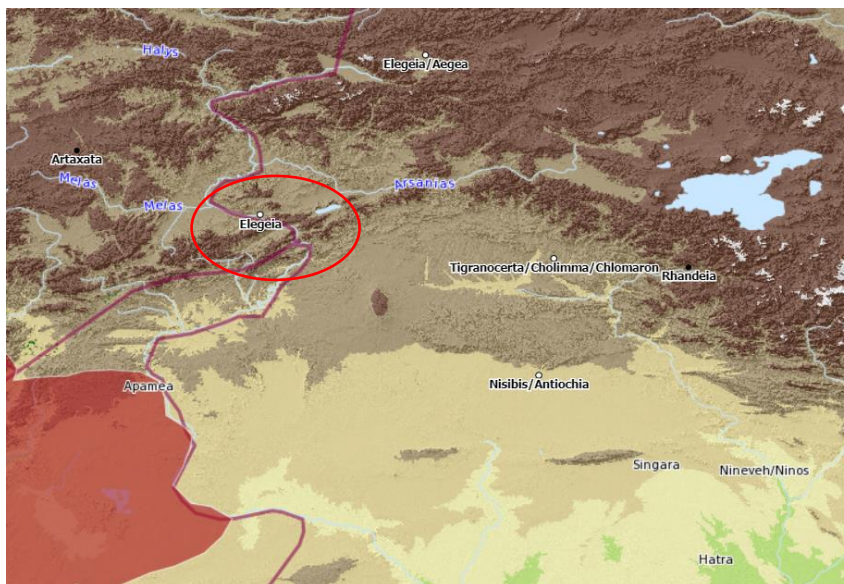
Session 2, Section D: Numismatics and Narratives: How a Classicist Can Read Coins

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1. The ceremonies surrounding the treaty of Rhandeia:

Tacitus, *Ann.* 15.1-29; Dio 52.2.3.1-4
Dio 63.4.3, 63.5.4; Suetonius, *Life of Nero*, 13

2. Map of Armenia, showing Elegeia (in the center-left):



Map created and modified using the Ancient World Mapping Center's Antiquity À-la-carte application (<http://awmc.unc.edu/awmc/applications/alacarte/>).

3. Cassius Dio's description of the meeting outside Elegeia:

ἐν δὲ Ἐλεγείᾳ τῆς Ἀρμενίας τὸν Παρθαμάσιριν προσεδέξατο. καθῆστο δὲ ἐπὶ βήματος ἐν τῷ ταφρεύματι· καὶ ὃς ἀσπασάμενος αὐτὸν τό τε διάδημα ἀπὸ τῆς κεφαλῆς ἀφεῖλε καὶ πρὸς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ ἔθηκε, σιγῇ τε εἰστήκει, καὶ προσεδόκα αὐτὸ ἀπολήψεσθαι. συμβουσιάζοντων δὲ ἐπὶ τούτῳ τῶν στρατιωτῶν, καὶ αὐτοκράτορα τὸν Τραϊανὸν ὡς καὶ ἐπὶ νίκη τινὶ ἐπικαλεσάντων... ἐξεπλάγη τε καὶ ἐνόμισεν ἐπὶ ὕβρει καὶ ὀλέθρῳ αὐτοῦ γεγονέναι. καὶ μετεστράφη μὲν ὡς καὶ φευζόμενος, ἰδὼν δὲ ὅτι περιστοιχίζεται ἐξητήσατο τὸ μὴ ἐν τῷ ὄχλῳ τι εἰπεῖν. καὶ οὕτως ἐς τὴν σκηνὴν ἐσαχθεὶς οὐδενὸς ἔτυχεν ὧν ἐβούλετο. ἐκπηδήσαντος οὖν ὀργῇ καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ἐκ τοῦ στρατοπέδου, μετεπέμψατο αὐτὸν ὁ Τραϊανός, καὶ ἀναβὰς αὐθις ἐπὶ τὸ βῆμα ἐκέλευσεν αὐτῷ πάντων ἀκούοντων εἰπεῖν ὅσα ἤθελεν, ἵνα μὴ ἀγνοήσαντές τινες τὰ κατὰ μόνας σφίσι εἰρημένα λογοποιήσωσι τίνα διάφορα. ἀκούσας τοῦτο ὁ Παρθαμάσιρις οὐκέτι τὴν ἡσυχίαν ἤγειν, ἀλλὰ μετὰ πολλῆς παρρησίας ἄλλα τέ τινα εἶπε καὶ ὅτι οὐχ ἠττηθεὶς οὐδὲ ζωγρηθεὶς ἀλλ' ἐκὼν ἀφίκετο, πιστεύσας ὅτι οὔτε τι ἀδικηθήσεται καὶ τὴν βασιλείαν ἀπολήψεται ὥσπερ καὶ ὁ Τιριδάτης παρὰ τοῦ Νέρωνος. καὶ αὐτῷ ὁ Τραϊανός πρὸς τε τᾶλλα ἀντέλεξεν ὅσα ἤρμοζεν, καὶ Ἀρμενίαν μὲν οὐδενὶ προήσεσθαι ἔφη (Ῥωμαίων τε γὰρ εἶναι καὶ ἄρχοντα Ῥωμαῖον ἔξειν), ἐκείνῳ μὲντοι ἀπελθεῖν ὅποι βούλεται ἐπιτρέψειν. καὶ τὸν μὲν Παρθαμάσιριν μετὰ τῶν Πάρθων τῶν συνόντων οἱ ἀπέπεμψεν, ἀγωγούς σφισιν ἰπέας, ὅπως μήτε τινὶ συγγένωνται μήτε τι νεοχμώσωσι, δούς· τοὺς δὲ Ἀρμενίους πάντας τοὺς μετ' αὐτοῦ ἐλθόντας προσέταξε κατὰ χώραν, ὡς καὶ αὐτοῦ ἤδη ὄντας, μεῖναι.

At Elegeia in Armenia, he [Trajan] received Parthamasiris, seated upon a tribunal in the camp. The prince saluted him, took his diadem from off his head and laid it at his feet, then stood there in silence, expecting to receive it back. At this the soldiers shouted aloud and hailed Trajan emperor, as if because of some victory...The shout terrified the prince, who thought that it was intended as an insult and meant his destruction; and he turned about as if to flee, but seeing that he was hemmed in on all sides, he begged that he might not be forced to speak before the crowd. Accordingly, he was conducted into the tent, where he obtained none of the things he wished. So out he rushed in a rage, and thence out of the camp; **but Trajan sent for him, and again ascending the tribunal, bade him say in the hearing of all everything that he desired. This was in order to prevent anybody, ignorant of what had been said in private conference, from making up a different report. On hearing this command, Parthamasiris no longer kept silence, but spoke with great frankness, declaring among other things that he had not been defeated or captured, but had come there voluntarily, believing that he should not be wronged and should receive back the kingdom, as Tiridates had received it from Nero. Trajan made fitting replies to all his remarks, and in particular declared that he would surrender Armenia to no one; for it belonged to the Romans and was to have a Roman governor.** He would, however, allow Parthamasiris to depart to any place he pleased. So he sent the prince away together with his Parthian companions and gave them an escort of cavalry to make sure that they should associate with no one and should begin no rebellion; but he commanded all the Armenians who had come with the prince to remain where they were, on the ground that they were already his subjects.

Dio 68.19.2-20.4 (trans. E. Cary).

4. *RIC II Trajan 263A, 310-12, 669, gold aurei, Rome, 112-114 CE (Abb. 107)*

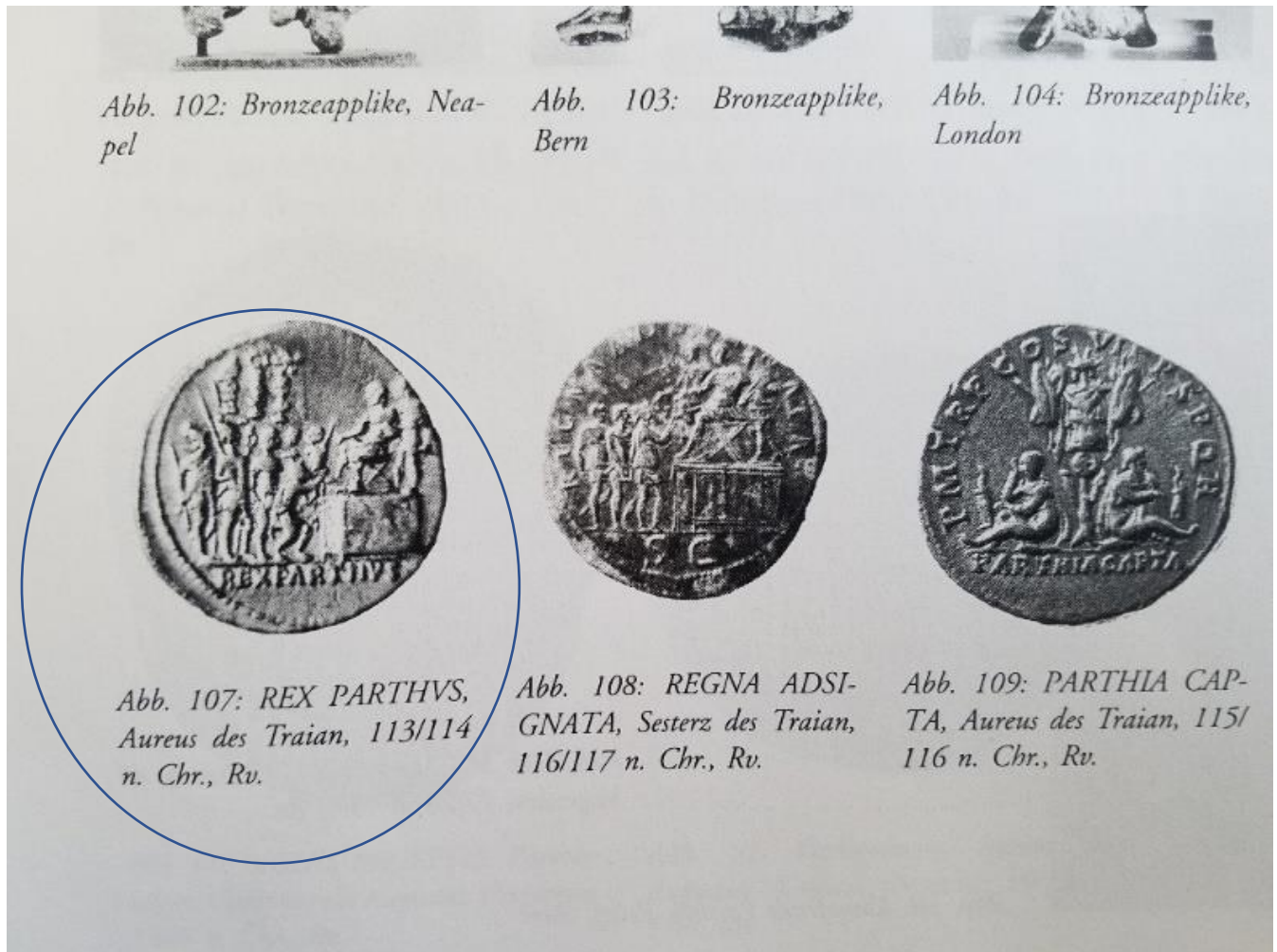


Abb. 102: Bronzeapplike, Neapel

Abb. 103: Bronzeapplike, Bern

Abb. 104: Bronzeapplike, London

Abb. 107: REX PARTHVS, Aureus des Traian, 113/114 n. Chr., Rv.

Abb. 108: REGNA ADSIGNATA, Sesterz des Traian, 116/117 n. Chr., Rv.

Abb. 109: PARTHIA CAPTA, Aureus des Traian, 115/116 n. Chr., Rv.

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