



DARIUS VIII. DARIUS SON OF ARTABANUS

DARIUS

viii. DARIUS SON OF ARTABANUS

A son of the Parthian king [Artabanus II](#) (r. ca. 10-38 C.E.) named Darius was sent as a hostage to Rome (Josephus, *Antiquitates* 18.4.5) shortly after an interview between Artabanus and the Roman legate for Syria, Vitellius, in 37 C.E. (Suetonius, *Caligula* 14.3; idem, *Vitellius* 2.4; Dion Cassius, 59.27.3).

Darius seems to have led an obscure life in the Roman empire. He is mentioned only once as having ridden before Gaius [Caligula] during one of his repeated crossings of the bridge between Baiae and the bay of Puteoli (Pozzuoli; Suetonius, *Caligula* 19.2). Five fragments of water conduits found at Nemi (ca. 40 km from Rome) bear the inscription “Darii Regis” (Morpurgo, p. 280 no. 109). It has been suggested that the inscription could refer to the hostage Darius (Stein, p. 2), but he could hardly have used the title “king.” Alfred von Gutschmid (p. 49 and n. 19) has identified Darius with Vologases I, mentioned as a son of Artabanus II by Josephus (*Antiquitates* 20.3.4), but this identification is untenable (cf. Kahrstedt, p. 18 and n. 9), as it would mean that Darius had been sent back to Artabanus.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. von Gutschmid, *Kleine Schriften* III, Leipzig, 1893.

U. Kahrstedt, *Artabanos III und seine Erben*, Bern, 1950.

L. Morpurgo, "Nemi," in *Notizie degli scavi*, Rome, 1931.

A. Stein, in *Prosopographia Imperii Romani* III, 2nd ed., Berlin and Leipzig, 1943.