

Artabanus IV (c. A.D. 216 - 224)

APTANANOS

When Ardashir I defeated the Parthian army and killed Artabanus IV at the battle of Hormizdgan in A.D. 224, it signaled the end of the Parthian empire although elements of the Parthians continued opposition until A.D. 227.

The coins of Artabanus IV were erroneously attributed to "Artavasdes" by Gardner, Petrowicz and Wroth due to a faulty translation of the Parthian Aramaic inscription.

See the article, "[Identifying Look-alike Parthian Bronzes](#) : Differentiating the Bronze Coins of Osroes II and Artabanus IV ."

See the [genealogy chart](#).

[Click here](#) to view the inscriptions on this king's coins.

Coins Attributed to Artabanus IV

Click on coin images to enlarge:

Sellwood Type 89



Artabanus IV

AR Drachm, 3.55 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left, medium forked beard, wearing tiara with ear flaps, pellets on stalks on crest, vertical line of pellets on stalks on side, behind head Pahlavi legend (*'rtbnw*); border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne, holding bow; first line of legend Pahlavi, remainder blundered Greek

Photo/ by permission Henri Delger, [Old Roman Coins for Special Collectors](#)

- Sellwood 89.1

- Shore 464



Artabanus IV

AR Drachm, 3.7 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left, medium forked beard, wearing tiara with ear flaps, pellets on stalks on crest, vertical line of pellets on stalks on side, behind head Pahlavi legend (*'rtbnw*); border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne, holding bow; first line of legend Pahlavi, remainder blundered Greek

Photo/ by permission [Sigma Ancient Coins](#)

- Sellwood 89.1



Artabanus IV

AR Drachm, 3.7 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left, medium forked beard, wearing tiara with ear flaps, pellets on stalks on crest, vertical line of pellets on stalks on side, behind head Pahlavi legend (*'rtbnw*); border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne, holding bow; first line of legend Pahlavi, remainder blundered Greek; monogram has crossed legs

Photo/ by permission Rian Thum

- Sellwood 89.3

For Sellwood Type 89.4, see the coins now attributed to [Tiridates III](#)

- The coins of [Tiridates III](#) were attributed to Artabanus IV by Sellwood (1980) but with an uncertain Parthian Aramaic inscription. In his article titled "The End of the Parthian Dynasty" (*Spink Numismatic Circular* 98, 1990, p. 157), Sellwood corrected the reading to *tr'dt* (= Tiridates) based on the subsequent appearance of other coins which confirmed the inscription.

Sellwood Type 90



Artabanus IV

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left, medium forked beard, wearing tiara with ear flaps, pellets on stalks round crest, star on side; no Pahlavi legend

Rev/ archer seated right on throne, holding bow; first line of legend Pahlavi, remainder blundered Greek

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 90.1

- Shore 467



Artabanus IV

AR Drachm, 3.79 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left, medium forked beard, wearing tiara with ear flaps, pellets on stalks round crest, spiral of dots on side; no Pahlavi legend

Rev/ archer seated right on throne, holding bow; first line of legend Pahlavi, remainder blundered Greek

Note/ only one example known with this tiara

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#) (CNG 58, lot 800)

- Sellwood 90.1 variant (spiral on tiara)

Artabanus IV

AE Chalkous, 1.11 g, 8 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left, medium forked beard, wearing tiara with ear flaps, pellets on stalks round crest, star on side

Rev/ horned sea monster left; square dotted border

- Sellwood 90.2

- Shore 642 (this coin)

source:

<http://www.parthia.com/artabanus4.htm>