

Mithradates II (c. 123 - 88 B.C.)

ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΗΣ

Mithradates II was the eighth Parthian king. One of the greatest Parthian kings, he defeated all Seleucid attempts to reclaim their Eastern territories and made Parthia into a formidable, unified empire. He made contact with Rome and introduced new titles and designs on his extensive coinage. He adopted the title Epiphanes, "god manifest".

Late in his reign [Justin XLII.2.7], Mithradates II exerted his influence in Great Armenia where he took as hostage a prince who was to become Tigranes the Great of Armenia.

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

See the [genealogy chart](#).

Coins Attributed to Mithradates II

- See the [contemporaneous counterfeit](#) of a Mithradates II coin in the ANS coin cabinet
- See the modern forgeries [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [8](#), [9](#), [12](#), [14](#) and [15](#) of Mithradates II coins
- See the [fourrée drachm](#) of a Mithradates II coin (type unlisted by Sellwood) in the ANS coin cabinet

Click on coin images to enlarge:

Sellwood Type 23



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.97 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated (122/121 B.C. ?)

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with short beard wearing diadem, hair arranged in concentric waves; reel-and-pellet border

Rev/ goddess (Demeter?) enthroned left holding Nike and cornucopia; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ; monogram and TY in exergue

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5121

- Sellwood 23.2



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.69 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated (122/121 B.C. ?)

Obv/ bare-headed young bust left with short beard wearing diadem, hair arranged in concentric waves; reel-and-pellet border

Rev/ goddess (Demeter?) enthroned left holding wreath-bearing Nike and cornucopia; winged sea deity below seat; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ; monogram and TY below in exergue

Photo/ by permission [Sotheby's](#), Sale L00575 (25 May 2000), Lot 29

- Sellwood 23.2

- Triton V (Jan 2002), lot 1604 (this coin)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 16.10 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated (122/121 B.C. ?)

Obv/ bare-headed young bust left with short beard wearing diadem, hair arranged in concentric waves; reel-and-pellet border

Rev/ goddess (Demeter?) enthroned left holding wreath-bearing Nike and cornucopia; winged sea deity below seat; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ; monogram and TY below in exergue

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#), CNG 54, Lot 842

- Sellwood 23.2

- Shore, not listed

- Le Rider, *Susa* pl. 71, 11 variant (legend)

- Triton IV (Dec 2000), Lot 328 (this coin)



Mithradates II

AE fourrée Drachm, 3.83 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem

Rev/ archer seated right on omphalos; 4-line Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Location/ [Institut für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte](#), Vienna, no. 8852

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 23.3



Mithradates II

AE Drachm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated, but possibly 122/121 B.C.

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem and radiate crown

Rev/ Nike walking (or standing) right, with a palm branch over her shoulder, holding in her right hand a wreath with diadem ties; 5-line Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ Note/ radiate crown rarely found

- Sellwood "Parthians and Scythians" (1998), fig. 3



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 17 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated, but possibly 122/121 B.C.

Obv/ bare-headed bust right with medium beard wearing diadem

Rev/ cornucopia; 3-line Greek inscription: [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ]; date at bottom exergue is read from outside and is possibly ΑΦΑ (191 S.E.)

Note/ this type coin is usually seen as an overstrike on issues of Hyspaosines

Photo/ by permission [Guy Clark's Ancient Coins and Antiquities](#)

- Sellwood 23.4

- Shore 90

Sellwood Type 24



Mithradates II

[Click here](#) to see the forgery of a Sellwood type 24.7 in the ANS coin cabinet



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 16.37 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#), Triton II, lot 556, 1-2 Dec 1998

- Sellwood 24.3



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.83 g

Mint/ Seleucia, undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / [Α]ΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [Ε]ΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in field right, palm branch; in exergue ΤΥ (incomplete)

Photo/ by permission [Sotheby's](#), Sale L00575 (25 May 2000), Lot 33

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 29 mm, 16.11 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [Ε]ΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in field right palm branch; in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Sotheby's](#)

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Additional images/ [\[large obv and rev\]](#)

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / [Α]ΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in field right palm branch; in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by kind permission Medusa Galleries

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 16.20 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in field right, palm branch; in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Harlan J. Berk, Ltd.](#)

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.95 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [ΕΠΙΦ]ΑΝ[ΟΥΣ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in field right, palm branch; ΤΥ expected in exergue, but off flan

Photo/ by permission [Harlan J. Berk, Ltd.](#)

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.75 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in field right, palm branch; in exergue, ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#), CNG 54, Lot 844

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.95 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in field right, palm branch; in exergue, ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#), Triton IV, Lot 329

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.64 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in field right, palm branch; in exergue, TY

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#), Triton IV, Lot 330

- Sellwood 24.4



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 33 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in exergue TY

Photo/ by permission [Olympus Numismatics](#)

- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.67 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [Ε]ΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in exergue TY (incomplete)

Photo/ by permission [Sotheby's](#), Sale L00575 (25 May 2000), Lot 30

- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 16.12 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in field right, in exergue TY

Photo/ by permission [Sotheby's](#), Sale L00575 (25 May 2000), Lot 31
- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 16.03 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by kind permission [Sotheby's](#), Sale L00575 (25 May 2000), Lot 32a

- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.90 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / [Α]ΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [Ε]ΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Sotheby's](#), Sale L00575 (25 May 2000), Lot 32b

- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 15.95 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Harlan J. Berk, Ltd.](#)

- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Tetradrachm, 16.12 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / [Α]ΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside, in exergue ΤΥ

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#), CNG 54, Lot 843

- Sellwood 24.4 variant (no palm branch)
- Shore 67 variant (no palm branch)



Mithradates II

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Additional images/ [[large obv & rev](#)]

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / [Μ]ΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission Smithsonian Institution, [National Numismatic Collection](#)

- Sellwood 24.9



Mithradates II

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission Mr. P.M., Brussels

- Sellwood 24.9



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.01 g, 21mm, axis 12h

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust left wearing diadem, pellet-ended torque; behind bust, monogram PA; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; square four-line Greek inscription with guide lines ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; no border

Photo/ by Bob Rives

- Sellwood 24.13
- Shore not listed



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.95 g, 21mm, axis 12h

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust left wearing diadem, pellet-ended torque; behind bust, Greek letters AP above AP; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; square four-line Greek inscription with guide lines ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; no border

Photo/ by Bob Rives

- Sellwood 24.16

- Shore 72



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.94 g, 22mm, axis 12h

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust left wearing diadem, pellet-ended torque; behind bust, monogram; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos; behind archer, monogram A, holding bow in right hand; square four-line Greek inscription with guide lines ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; no border

Photo/ by Bob Rives

- Sellwood 24.18 variant (no guide lines)

- Shore not listed



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.05 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end; behind bust, Shore monogram 14(?) below, Shore monogram 15(?) above

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; in exergue below, [monogram 15](#)

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 24.20 variant

- Shore 75 variant



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.21 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque ends in single pellet; behind bust, monogram

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside;

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5125

- Sellwood 24.30

- Shore 76



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 6.26 g, 20 mm, die axis = 1h

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem

Rev/ horse walking right. No monogram 'AP' above flank of horse; Greek inscription: (clockwise from left)

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑ[ΚΟΥ] / [ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ] with no guide lines

Photo/ by permission Thomas K. Mallon, [The Coins and History of Asia](#)

- Sellwood 24.33 variant

- Shore 91



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 7.36 g, 23x22 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem; behind bust MI

Rev/ horse walking right; monogram 'AP' above flank of horse; Greek inscription (clockwise from left)

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑ[ΚΟΥ] / [ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ] with guide lines

Photo/ by permission Thomas K. Mallon, [The Coins and History of Asia](#)

- Sellwood 24.35 variant

- Shore 91 variant



Mithradates II

AE Tetrachalkous, 7.71 g, 22 mm

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem

Rev/ horse walking right, foreleg raised

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 24.34 variant



Mithradates II

AE Tetrachalkous, 6.6 g, 21 mm

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem; behind bust M

Rev/ horse walking right, MI above horse's flank; Greek inscription: (clockwise from left) ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / [ΑΡ]ΣΑΚΟΥ / [ΕΠΙ]ΦΑΝΟΥΣ with no guide lines

Photo/ by permission Doug Smith's [Ancient Greek & Roman Coins](#)

- Sellwood 24.36 variant

Sellwood Type 25



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.29 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 376, lot 618

- Sellwood 25.1

- Shore not listed

Sellwood Type 26



Mithradates II

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Doug Mudd](#)

- Sellwood 26.1



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.2 g, 21 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ eBay #364279525

- Sellwood 26.1



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.88 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5126

- Sellwood 26.1

Shore 77



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.05 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 26.2



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.22 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 26.2

- Shore 78



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.98 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end; behind bust

[monogram 17](#)

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in both hands; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; no monogram on reverse

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 26.10

- Shore 81



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.98 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end; behind bust, monogram (not in Shore; nor Babelon, *Traité*)

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in both hands; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ; bottom line of inscription read from outside; symbol E in exergue left

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

- Sellwood 26.14

- Shore 82



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 20 mm

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem

Rev/ horse walking right; Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Σ] / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ]; bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Flavian Logic Ancient Numismatics](#)

- Sellwood 26.25



Mithradates II

AE Tetrachalkous, 4.86 g, 19 mm, die axis = 1h

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem; no symbol

Rev/ Pegasus flying right. Greek legend

Photo/ by permission Thomas K. Mallon, [The Coins and History of Asia](#)

- Sellwood 26.26

- Shore 93



Mithradates II

AE Tetrachalkous, 5.68 g, 19 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem; no symbol

Rev/ Pegasus flying right. Greek legend ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Photo/ by Bob Rives

- Sellwood 26.26

- Shore 93



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 19 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem, neck torque has plain end

Rev/ horse head right; Greek inscription: probably ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ;
bottom line of inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Empire Coins International](#)

- Sellwood 26.28

- Shore 92



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 3.24 g, 17 mm

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long beard wearing diadem

Rev/ Nike standing right, holding wreath, palm branch

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 26.33

- Shore 494 variant (chalkous)

Sellwood Type 27



Mithradates II Modern Forgery

Click on the coin image at left to see three examples of gold forgeries of Sellwood type 27.1 silver drachms
([Forgeries 2](#), [3](#) and [6](#))



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.07 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#) mint, undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 27.1

- Shore 85



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.87 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#) mint, undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand, legend [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]

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

- Sellwood 27.1

- Shore 85



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.0 g, 21 mm

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Additional images/ [\[study image obv\]](#)

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand, legend ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Location/ V. Kucherov collection

Photo/ E. Rtveladze, *The Ancient Coins of Central Asia* (1987)

- Sellwood 27.1

- Rtveladze 9 (this coin)



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 18x19 mm

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Additional images/ [\[large obv & rev\]](#)

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; border of dots
Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand, legend ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Photo/ by permission [David Garstang](#)

- Sellwood 27.1



Mithradates II

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; 5-line Greek inscription:

[B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟ[Υ] / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Photo/ by permission from the [Alexander Filer collection](#)

- Sellwood 27.2

- Shore 86



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.46 g, 22 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Additional images/ [\[large obv & rev\]](#) [\[study image obv\]](#) [\[study image rev\]](#)

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; 5-line Greek inscription:

[B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Prov/ found in burial site 3 at Tillya-tepe. See Sarianidi & Koshelenko, "Coins from ... Tillya-tepe Site" (1982). Location uncertain; was Kabul Museum until Taliban revolution, [reportedly found safe](#) in Aug 2003.

- *Tillya-tepe*, no. 3.43 (this coin)

- Sellwood 27.2



Mithradates II

AE Dichalkous, 18 mm

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

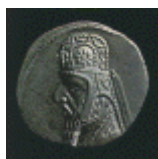
Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing diadem; behind head, monogram; border of dots

Rev/ horse head right; 5-line Greek inscription: [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Ν] / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ]

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 27.10

Sellwood Type 28



Mithradates II

AR Drachm

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing tiara; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on omphalos (instead of the usual throne) holding bow in right hand; unusual 3-line Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ, missing the usual last word ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ

Photo/ the [Hartford Image Archive](#)

Note/ Suspect obverse/reverse photo image mismatch

- Sellwood 28.1 obverse; reverse similar to type 25.1 but missing fourth word



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.20 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing tiara with eight-point star; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; 5-line Greek inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ; left inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 28.1

- Shore 95



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.17 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing tiara with central star; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 28.2

- Shore 96



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.75 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ long bearded bust of king left, wearing Sellwood tiara vi; torque ends in seahorse; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow in right hand; ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5132
- Sellwood 28.6



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 3.88 g, 19 mm, die axis = 1h

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with long beard wearing tiara with star in center, earring visible

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow. Greek legend

Photo/ by permission Thomas K. Mallon, [The Coins and History of Asia](#)

- Sellwood 28.7

- Shore 99



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.12 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with long beard wearing tiara with 8-pointed star in center, earring visible

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow. Greek legend ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ right, ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ left, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ above, ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ below

Photo/ by permission [Classical Numismatic Group](#)

- Sellwood 28.7 variant (six-point star on tiara)



Mithradates II

AR Drachm

Mint/ unknown (probably [Margiane](#) or other east Parthia mint), undated

Additional images/ [[large obv & rev](#)]

Obv/ bust left with long beard wearing tiara with star in center, ear flap

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; five line Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ, left inscription read from outside

Photo/ by permission Smithsonian Institution, [National Numismatic Collection](#)

- Sellwood 28.7 variant (tiara design)



Mithradates II

AE Tetrachalkous

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with long beard wearing tiara with star in center, ear flap

Rev/ Pegasus flying right; five line Greek inscription
Prov/ CNG sale 41, lots 832 & 833
Photo/ by permission Gene Brandenburg, [Old Town Coins](#)
- Sellwood 28.8

Sellwood Type 29



Mithradates II

AR Drachm, 4.07 g
Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated
Obv/ bust left with long beard wearing tiara with six-pointed star in center, ear flap, torque end single pellet
Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow. Six line Greek inscription [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ [BA]ΣΙΛΕΩΝ
ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝ; left inscription lines read from outside
Photo/ by permission [Malter Galleries](#)
- Sellwood 29.1

source:

<http://www.parthia.com/mithradates2.htm>