

Mithradates I (c. 171 - 138 B.C.)

ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΗΣ

Fifth king of Parthia, and the king who established Parthia as an ancient world power. He was the brother of [Phraates I](#), and the son of [Phriapatius](#). He was the father of [Phraates II](#). See the [genealogy chart](#).

We do not know the exact date of his accession, but he is mentioned by Justin [XLI.6] as a contemporary of Bactria's Eucratides and Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Antiochus IV campaigned in Iran to return the territories lost by [Arsaces II](#).

Mithradates I may have campaigned into Tapuria and Traxiana shortly after succeeding to the throne. The death of Antiochus IV in 164 B.C. would certainly have reduced pressure on Parthia from the west. From 161 - 155 B.C. Mithradates waged a long war with Media, the success of which was long unsure. The best account appears to be that Timarkhos, Seleucid satrap of Media lost some territory in the area of [Rhagae](#) and farther east, to Mithradates I, while the Seleucid reconquest did not recover this land but did recapture [Ecbatana](#). According to Justin,¹ Mithradates I had to fight many times in Media and Frye² believes it conceivable that the Seleucids held only the city and the lowlands to the west of Ecbatana at the time the relief at Herakles was carved, approximately 148 B.C.

The acquisition of Media opened the door to Mesopotamia for Parthian expansion into that fertile territory.³ Mithradates entered the royal city of Seleucia and was recognized as King on or before July 8, 141 B.C. Before October 141 B.C., Mithradates sovereignty was acknowledged as far south as Uruk. But by December, incursions of the Sakae into Hyrcania forced him away to the east. Mithradates turned over military command to a Parthian commander and the remainder of his reign was occupied with campaigns in southern and central Parthia.⁴ Mithradates was no sooner gone than Demetrius returned to the attack, joined by Elymais and Persis (and perhaps Bactrian troops), but Demetrius was soon captured and sent to Mithradates in Hyrcania. He was well treated, however, and given Rhodogune, Mithradates' daughter, in marriage. As punishment for joining Demetrius against the Parthians, Elymais was looted, where the temples of Artemis and Athena yielded "ten thousand talents."⁵ Since the Parthians were established at Susa shortly after the death of Mithradates, that territory was probably added to the empire by him.⁶ At his death, the Parthian empire included Parthia proper, Hyrcania, Media, Babylonia, Assyria, Elymais, Persis (?), and the districts of Tapuria and Traxiana.

Scholars originally accepted Mithradates I died peacefully in 138/137 B.C., a date fixed by the date of his final tetradrachm (S13.5, dated 174 Seleucid era), and cuneiform evidence, but recent works by Dabrowa⁸ and others suggest the end of Mithradates I's reign was in 132 B.C.

With the name Mithradates, we may safely assume that worship of the god Mithra was officially sanctioned in Parthia.⁷

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

Notes:

1. Justin (XLI, 6)
 2. Frye, *History* (1984), p. 210
 3. Debevoise, *Political History*, 18-19
 4. Debevoise, 24
 5. Strabo, XVI, i, 18
 6. Debevoise, 26
 7. Debevoise, 27
 8. Dabrowa, *Les aspects politiques et militaires de la conquete parthe de la Mezopotamie* (2005), p. 73
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Coins Attributed to Mithradates I

Click on coin images to enlarge:

- See the [modern forgery](#) of a Mithradates I type 10 coin

Sellwood Type 7



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.20g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless head left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 7.1

- Triton VII (Jan 2004, lot 396 (this coin))

- Harlan J. Berk 20th CIGF Auction (Mar 1995), lot 61 (this coin)

- Mitchiner *ACW*, 462

- BMC Parthia, not listed

- Shore, not listed



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.36g, 19mm, 12h

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless head left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 7.1

- CNG Online Coin Shop, item 756419 (May 2005) (this coin)
- Mitchiner *ACW*, 462
- BMC Parthia, not listed
- Shore, not listed



Mithradates I

AE Dichalkous, 1.90g, 17mm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless head left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ goddess standing left, wreath in right hand, long palm branch in left; behind goddess, single-word

Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ is retrograde and read from outside; no border

Additional photos/ [color](#), [black & white](#)

Photos/ by permission [Najaf Coins & Collectibles Inc.](#)

- Sellwood 7.2

- Shore, not listed

Sellwood Type 8



Mithradates I

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand;

behind archer, single-word Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ; no border

Location/ Cabinet des Médailles, [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#), nc 17

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 8.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.14g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; behind

archer, single-word Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ; no border

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

- Sellwood 8.1

- Shore 5 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.30g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; behind archer, single-word Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ; no border

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

- Sellwood 8.1

- Shore 6 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AE Dichalkous

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ horse walking right; above, single-word retrograde Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ read from inside; circular border of dots

Photo/ by permission [Rian Thum](#)

- Sellwood 8.2



Mithradates I

AE Dichalkous, 4.31g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ horse walking right; above, single-word Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ read from outside; circular border of dots

Note/ legend not retrograde

Location/ Cabinet des Médailles, [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#)

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 8.2 .2 variant (legend read from outside)

- *Suse*, cf. p. 313 (Arsaces I, this coin)



Mithradates I

AE Chalkous, 14mm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ elephant walking right; above, single-word Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ read from inside; no border

Photo/ BMC Parthia

- BMC Parthia, p. 2, 2; plate 1, no. 2 (Tiridates I and Arsaces) (this coin)
- Sellwood 8.3



Mithradates I

AE Chalkous

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ elephant walking right; above, single-word Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ read from inside; no border

Photo/ by permission [Rian Thum](#)

- Sellwood 8.3

Sellwood Type 9



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 4.3g, 20 mm, 12h

Mint/ unknown

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

Obv/beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; no border

Photo/ *Ars Classica XII*, lot 2058 (Tiridates I), Petrowicz collection

- Petrowicz, p. 5, 2 (Tiridates I) (this coin)
- BMC Parthia, p. 2, 3/8 (Tiridates I)



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 3.73g

Mint/ unknown

Obv/beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; no border

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5096

- Sellwood 9.1
- Shore 7



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 3.42g

Mint/ unknown

Obv/bust of king, left, beardless; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, earring, torque and cloak; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; no border

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

- Sellwood 9.1

- Shore 7 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 3.42g

Mint/ unknown

Obv/bust of king, left, beardless; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, earring, torque and cloak; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; no border

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

- Sellwood 9.1

- Shore 8 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 3.64g

Mint/ unknown

Obv/bust of king, left, beardless; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, earring, torque and cloak; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; no border

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

- Sellwood 9.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 3.81g

Mint/ unknown

Obv/bust of king, left, beardless; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, earring, torque and cloak; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; in exergue, Greek letter N; no border

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

- Sellwood 9.2
- Shore 9 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AR Drachm. 4.04g

Mint/ unknown

Obv/bust of king, left, beardless; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, earring, torque and cloak; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; two-line Greek inscription ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; in exergue, Greek letter Ν; no border, monogram Shore 1 in exergue

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

- Sellwood 9 type
- Shore 10 (this coin)

Sellwood Type 10



Mithradates I

AR Drachm,

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

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

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription [B]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Photo/ by permission [Tkalec](#) Auktion 2000, Lot 193

- Sellwood 10.1
- Shore 12



Mithradates I

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left, wearing bashlyk; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 10.1
- Shore 12



Mithradates I

AR over AE, fourrée drachm, 4.0g, 21 mm

Mint/ unknown, undated

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

Obv/ bust of king, left, beardless; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, earring, torque and cloak; border of dots

Rev/ beardless king seated right on omphalos, holding bow in outstretched hand; wears bashlyk tied with diadem, scale-armor (visible on arms and legs), cloak, and boots tied with straps. Inscription: (clockwise from left) ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / [ΜΕ]ΓΑΛΟΥ / [ΑΡ]ΣΑΚΟΥ

Photo/ by permission Doug Smith's [Ancient Greek & Roman Coins](#). Read his excellent [discussion](#) of this coin and other Fourrées.

- Sellwood 10 (similar, but Fourrée)
- BMC Parthia p. 5, v; pl. I, 15 ("Phraates I?")



Mithradates I

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

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

Obv/ bust left with no beard, in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 10.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.26g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with no beard, in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 10.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.21g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with no beard, in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends; border of dots
Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 10.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 19x22 mm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

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

Obv/ bust left with no beard, in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Photo/ by permission [David Garstang](#)

- Sellwood 10.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.03g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#)?, 143/2 B.C.

Additional images/ [[detail of reverse](#)]

Obv/ bust left with no beard, in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ; in exergue OP (=170 Seleucid era?)

Note/ if the OP on the reverse is a date, as Shore suggests, Mithradates I continued to mint bashlyk type coins until late in his reign, concurrent with his later types, but probably at eastern mints

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

- Sellwood 10.1 variant (date)

- Shore 16 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.97g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; no exergual line, irregular die axis.

Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5099

- Sellwood 10.9



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 4.01 g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ beardless bust left in bashlyk, wearing diadem with two ends

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΘΕΟΠΙΑΤΟΡ

Note/ Shore believes this to be a posthumous issue, and Sellwood (1980) states it could be an issue of Phraates II. I only know of two examples; this one from the Shore collection and one in the British Museum, London

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

- Sellwood 10.17

- Shore 19 (this coin)

Sellwood Type 11



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 16.8g

Mint/ [Nisa](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust left, wearing diadem; laurel wreath border

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on omphalos, holding bow in right hand; three-line Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ; in exergue, Greek letter N; no border

Note/ this is the only known example of a type 11 tetradrachm

Photo/ by permission [Najaf Coins & Collectibles Inc.](#)

- Sellwood, not listed

- *BMC Parthia*, not listed



Mithradates I

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

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

Obv/ bare-headed bearded bust left, wearing diadem with two ends; border not distinguishable

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 11.1



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.33g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bearded bust left, wearing diadem with two ends; border not distinguishable; soft obverse strike

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 11.1

- Shore 24



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.28g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bearded bust left, wearing diadem with two ends; border not distinguishable; soft obverse strike

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 11.1

- Shore 24



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.57g

Mint/ [Nisa](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bearded bust left, wearing diadem with two ends; border of laurel

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5103

- Sellwood 11.3

- Shore 26



Mithradates I

AE Dichalkon, 1.77g

Mint/ [Hecatompylos](#), undated

Additional images/ [[reverse detail](#)]

Obv/ bare-headed bearded bust left, wearing diadem with two ends; border of dots

Rev/ horse walking right; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

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

- Sellwood 11.6

- Shore 28

Sellwood Type 12



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.96g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bearded bust right, wearing diadem; border

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on omphalos; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ[Σ] / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ and monogram

Location/ Cabinet des Médailles, [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#), #1972-42

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 12.2



Mithradates I

AE Dichalkous, 7.0g, 21 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bareheaded bust of king, right, bearded; wears diadem; behind bust monogram

Rev/ bow in case; 3-line inscription: (clockwise from left) [ΒΑΣ]ΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕ[ΓΑΛΟΥ] / [ΑΡΣΑΚ]ΟΥ

Photo/ by permission [Rian Thum](#)

- Sellwood 12.11



Mithradates I

AE Dichalkous, 20 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bareheaded bust of king, right, bearded; wears diadem and drapery

Rev/ winged Nike in biga driving left; ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ

Prov/ Claude Stewart

Location/ British Museum

Note/ the Nike-biga motif is unusual for Parthian coins; see gold stater of [Antiochus VII](#) for a similar design

- Sellwood 12.14

- BMC Parthia, Plate 2, 8 (this coin)

- Mitchiner *ACW* 484

Note: Sellwood (1980) numbers two coins as 12.24. The convention is to refer to these as 12.24a and 12.24b, following Shore (1993), since renumbering the subtypes can only lead to confusion.



Mithradates I

AE Chalkous, 2.8g, 15 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bareheaded bust of king, right, bearded; wears diadem

Rev/ be viewed from above; 3-line inscription: (clockwise from left) [B]ΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΣ] / [ΜΕ]ΓΑΛΟΥ / [Α]ΡΣΑΚ[ΟΥ]

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

- Sellwood 12.24b

- Shore 485

Sellwood Type 13



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 15.72g, die axis 12h

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ naked Herakles left holding cup, lion's skin and club; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΣ] / ΜΕΓΑΛ[ΟΥ] / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟ[Σ]; no monogram nor date

Photo/ by permission [Lanz Numismatik](#), Auktion 102 (May 2001), lot 313

- Sellwood 13.1



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 15.00g, 29 mm, die axis +20 degrees

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ naked Herakles left holding cup, lion's skin and club; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 13.2

- Le Rider, *Suse sous les Séleucides*, Plate LXX, no. 16 (this coin)



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 15.21g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ naked Herakles left holding cup, lion's skin and club; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5104

- Sellwood 13.2

- Shore 35



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 15.21g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

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

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ naked Herakles left holding cup, lion's skin and club; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ

Location/ Cabinet des Médailles, [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#), Armand-Valton 533

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 13.2



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 14.54g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), 140-139 B.C.

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ naked Herakles left holding cup, lion's skin and club; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ; in exergue ΓΟΡ = 173 Seleucid Era

Photo/ by permission [Jean Elsen, S.A.](#)

- Sellwood 13.3



Mithradates I

AR Tetradrachm, 13.42g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), 139-138 B.C.

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

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ naked Herakles left holding cup, lion's skin and club; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ; in exergue, ΔΟΡ = 174 Seleucid Era

Location/ Cabinet des Médailles, [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#), NC 22

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 13.5

- Le Rider, *Suse sous les Séleucides*, Plate LXX, no. 22 (this coin?)

- BMC Parthia, pl. III, 12

Drachms



Mithradates I

AR Drachm, 3.81g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust right; reel and pellet border

Rev/ Zeus enthroned left eagle and scepter; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ; monogram in exergue

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5105

- Sellwood 13.6

Unlisted Type



Mithradates I

AR Diobol, 1.4g

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ diademed bust of king left

Rev/ archer seated right on omphalos holding bow

- Mitchiner *ACW* 489 (this coin)

- Mitchiner *Indo-Greeks* 627a

source:

<http://www.parthia.com/mithradates1.htm>