

Gotarzes I (c. 95 - 90 B.C.)

## ΓΩΤΑΡΖΗΣ or ΓΩΤΕΡΖΗΣ

Gotarzes I was the ninth Parthian king, the grandson of [Phriapatius](#). His father's name has not come down through history, but he was not a king.

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

See the [genealogy chart](#).

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## Coins Attributed to Gotarzes I

Click on coin images to enlarge:

Sellwood Type 33

Sellwood type 33 coins were originally attributed to Sinatruces by Sellwood (1971) but revised to Gotarzes I by Sellwood (1980). Recent research shows the type likely does belong to Sinatruces. All coins on this web site are attributed according to Sellwood (1980).



Gotarzes I

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ long-bearded bust left, wearing tiara with stag devices; diadem with two ends, ear flaps

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΘΕΟΠΑΤΡΟΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ, legend on left read from outside

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

- Sellwood 33.4



Gotarzes I

AR Drachm, 3.74 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ long-bearded bust left, wearing tiara with all swan devices in clockwise direction; diadem with two ends, ear flaps

Rev/ beardless archer, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ /

ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΘΕΟΠΑΤΡΟΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΠΟΣ, legend on left read from outside

Photo/ by permission [Harlan J. Berk, Ltd.](#)  
Prov/ Berk 134th Buy or Bid Sale, lot 167  
- Sellwood 33.5



Gotarzes I

AV Stater (possibly Fourrée), 3.35 g, 18 mm

Mint/ unknown, undated

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

Obv/ bearded bust of king left, wearing tiara with ear flap; in front of king is unknown symbol [possibly recumbent stag?]. Behind head is countermark in form of full frontal face.

Rev/ beardless archer, in field is mostly illegible Greek inscription

Note 1/ This appears to be a gold variant of Sellwood type 33.7 (from the [Margiana mint](#) or another further to the East). The crude style of both the obverse and reverse of this example are in line with the engraving traits of the mints to the far east of the Parthian empire. The obverse also carries countermark "i" (Sellwood, 1980, p. 294) which is exclusively found on the countermarked specimens of Sellwood type 33 drachms. In addition, the inner line of the left hand inscription seems to read ΘΠΑ[ΤΟΠΟΣ?] for ΘΕΟΠΑΤΟΠΟΣ.

Unfortunately, the inscription on the left side is either very weakly struck or partially obliterated by countermarking and thus remains almost illegible. Therefore, one cannot be sure whether it was intended to read ΝΙΚΑΤΟΠΟΣ or ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ. These coins were likely minted by Sinatruces to pay the Saka mercenaries who helped him gain the Parthian throne.

Note 2/ Pugachenkova and Rempel, "Tillya-tepe" (1991, p. 12) believe this coin to be a local imitation of first century B.C. Parthian coins

Prov/ found in burial site 6 at Tillya-tepe. See Sarianidi & Koshelenko, "Coins from ... Tillya-tepe Site" (1982).

- Tillya-tepe cat. no. 6.32 (this coin)

- Sellwood 33.7 gold variant?

- Senior ISCH 194.3D (this coin)



Gotarzes I

AE Chalkous (?) (Silvered), 2.50 g, 15 x 17 mm, 11 o'clock

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust of king left, wearing tiara with horn in center, stags on top

Rev/ Nike walking right holding wreath; Greek legend = Sellwood ii

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

- Sellwood 33.14

- Shore 119

source:

<http://www.parthia.com/gotarzes1.htm>