

Vologases IV (c. A.D. 147 - 191)

ΟΛΑΓΑΣΗΣ and ΟΛΟΓΑΣΗΣ

The inscription on the bronze Herakles discovered in 1984 shows that Vologases IV was the son of [Mithradates IV](#).¹ Vologases IV appears to have succeeded to the throne peacefully. See the [genealogy chart](#).

He was forced to defend Parthia against the Romans beginning in A.D. 155 after tensions over Armenia boiled over. The king is uniformly pictured in a tiara on all denominations and the volume of the coins attests to his long reign and the minor economic impact on Parthia of the war with Rome. Many of the tetradrachms are dated and his reign produced at least 125 different dates on coins. The undated drachms carry his name in Parthian script, and some of the bronzes have a full facing bust or the king astride a horse.

It may be significant that the Greek spelling of Vologases IV, beginning with Sellwood type 84.41, changes from ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ (the genitive case as used on coins) to ΟΛΟΓΑΣΟΥ. Could Vol-a-gases IV and Vol-o-gases IV be different kings? The new "o" spelling is used later for Vologases V and Vologases VI.

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

Notes:

1. See W. I. al-Salihi, *Sumer* 43 (1984), p. 219 and J. Black, *ibid.*, p. 230.

Sellwood Type 84

See the page describing [Vologases III and IV Bronzes with "Tyche Reverse"](#)



Vologases IV

See the [fourrée tetradrachm](#) attributed to Vologases IV.



Vologases IV

AR Tetradrachm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), November, A.D. 152

Obv/ cuirassed bust of king left, long tapered beard, wearing tiara. B behind head

Rev/ king enthroned left, receiving diadem from Tyche. Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ / ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ. Between the heads of Tyche and the king is the Greek numeral ΔΞΥ, year 464 of the Seleucid era (A.D. 152). Inner line of inscription at the bottom is ΑΠΕΛΛΙΟΥ, or November

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

- Sellwood 84.13
- Mitchiner *ACW* 684 similar



Vologases IV

AR Tetradrachm, 14.2 g, 30x26 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), October, A.D. 154

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

Obv/ cuirassed bust of king left, long tapered beard, wearing tiara. "B" behind head

Rev/ king enthroned left, receiving diadem from Tyche. Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ / ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ. Between the heads of Tyche and the king is the Greek numeral ζΞΥ, year 466 of the Seleucid era (A.D. 154). Inner line of inscription at the bottom is ΔΙΟΥ, or October

Location/ V. Kucherov collection

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

- Sellwood 84.17
- Rtveladze 14 (Vologases I) (this coin)

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

- Sellwood 84.17
- Rtveladze 14 (Vologases I) (this coin)



Vologases IV

AR Tetradrachm

Obv/ cuirassed bust of king left, long tapered beard, wearing tiara. "B" behind head. More barbarous than preceding example.

Rev/ king enthroned left, receiving diadem from Tyche. Greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ / ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ. Between the heads of Tyche and the king is the Greek numeral ΘΠΥ, year 489 of the Seleucid era (A.D. 177). Inner line of inscription at the bottom is ΑΠΕΛΛΙΟΥ, or November.

- Sellwood 84.57
- Mitchiner *ACW* 684 similar



Vologases IV

AR Tetradrachm, 13.34 gm, 26 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), April, A.D. 181

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

Obv/ bust left with long, tapered beard with square cut end; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and long, curved earflap. Lock of hair representing royal wart on forehead; earring visible, B behind head. Diadem with loop at top and four ends

Rev/ king seated left on throne; Tyche standing right before him, giving him diadem and holding scepter.
Greek legend

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

- Sellwood 84.89

- Shore 432 variant

Drachma



Vologases IV

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bearded bust of king left, wearing diademed tiara with ear flap and hooked appendages, diadem ends as three lines; border of dots.

Rev/ beardless archer, wearing kyrbasia and cloak, seated right on throne, left foot appears as an X; in right hand, bow; in front, pellet above bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); Pahlavi inscription 2: VoLGaŠI MaLKa, blundered Greek inscription

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

- Sellwood 84.127



Vologases IV

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Additional images/ [[large](#)]

Obv/ double strike. Bearded bust of king left, wearing diademed tiara with ear flap and hooked appendages, diadem ends as three lines; border of dots.

Rev/ double strike. Beardless archer, wearing kyrbasia and cloak, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; in front, no pellet above bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); Pahlavi inscription 2: VoLGaŠI MaLKa, Greek inscription

- Sellwood 84.128



Vologases IV

AR Drachm, 3.9 g, 19.5 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bearded bust of king left, wearing diademed tiara with ear flap and hooked appendages, diadem ends as three lines; border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer, wearing kyrbasia and cloak, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; in front, no

pellet above bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); Pahlavi inscription 2: VoLGaŠI MaLKa, Greek inscription 3.
Photo/ ex collection Dr. Atiyah, 1955

- Sellwood 84.129
- SNG *Cop* Volg. III, 240
- BMC *Parth* Volg. III, 58



Vologases IV

AR Drachm, 3.81 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust of king left with rectangular beard, wearing diademed tiara with ear flap and hooked appendages, diadem ends as three lines; border of dots.

Rev/ beardless archer, wearing kyrbasia and cloak, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; in front, no pellet above bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); Pahlavi inscription: VoLGaŠI MaLKa, Greek inscription is Sellwood iv

Photo/ by permission [Pegasinum](#)

- Sellwood 84.131



Vologases IV

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bearded bust of king left, wearing diademed tiara with ear flap and hooked appendages, diadem ends as three lines; border of dots.

Rev/ beardless archer, wearing kyrbasia and cloak, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; in front, no pellet above bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); Pahlavi inscription: VoLGaŠI MaLKa, Greek inscription is Sellwood iv

Photo/ by permission [Frank S. Robinson](#)

- Sellwood 84.132



Vologases IV

AR Drachm, 3.81 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bearded bust of king left, wearing diademed tiara with ear flap and hooked appendages, diadem ends as three lines; border of dots.

Rev/ beardless archer, wearing kyrbasia and cloak, seated right on throne; in right hand, bow; in front, no pellet above bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); Pahlavi inscription: VoLGaŠI MaLKa, Greek inscription is Sellwood iv

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

- Sellwood 84.132

- Shore 434



Vologases IV

AE Tetrachalkous?, 7.04 g

Mint/ [Edessa](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with long, rectangular beard; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and long, curved earflap [this type usually has B behind head]

Rev/ large [monogram 43](#), Pahlavi (?) legend Sellwood vi, wreath around

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

- Sellwood 84.134

- Mitchiner, *ACW* 436

- BMC 96



Vologases IV

AE Dichalkous, 3.57 g, 15 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 154/155

Obv/ Bust facing with long, tapered beard with square cut end; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and long, curved earflap; to right, Seleucid date $\zeta\Xi\Upsilon$ (= 466 Seleucid Era)

Rev/ Nike seated left on column; palm in left field

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

- Sellwood 84.142



Vologases IV

AE Dichalkous, 2.7 g, 15 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), date unreadable

Obv/ bust left with long, tapered beard with square cut end; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and long, curved earflap; in front, date unreadable off flan

Rev/ bust of Tyche right, in front monogram Shore 53

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

- Sellwood 84.144-153



Vologases IV

AE Dichalkous

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), date unreadable

Obv/ bust left with long, tapered beard with square cut end; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side

and long, curved earflap; in front, date unreadable
Rev/ bust of Tyche right, in front monogram Shore 53
Photo/ eBay auction
- Sellwood 84.144-153



Vologases IV

AE Dichalkous, 3.89 g

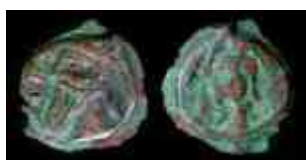
Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 168/169

Obv/ bust left with long, tapered beard with square cut end; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and long, curved earflap; in front, date IIY (= 480 Seleucid Era)

Rev/ bust of Tyche right, in front monogram Shore 53

Photo/ by permission [Jean Elsen](#) 62, Lot 412

- Sellwood 84.146
- Shore 633 variant



Vologases IV

AE Dichalkous, 2.78 g, 14 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), 174 A.D.

Obv/ bust left with long, tapered beard with square cut end; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and long, curved earflap; in front, Greek numeral ζIIY , year 486 of the Seleucid era (A.D. 174)

Rev/ Nike seated left on column with palm

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

- Sellwood 84.157
- Shore 633 variant

source:

<http://www.parthia.com/vologases4.htm>