

Vologases III (c. A.D. 105 - 147)

ΟΛΑΓΑΣΗΣ

Vologases first presented himself as a claimant for the Parthian throne around A.D. 105, near the end of the reign of [Pacorus II](#), and he continued as a rival for the throne through the reign of [Osroes I](#) []. After the death of that king, Vologases was able to rule the greater part of Parthia until his death. Subsequently he had to contend with raiders from the north as well as several usurpers in Iran, including [Mithradates IV](#) [] and [Unknown King III](#) [].

His coinage was prolific, perhaps the most common of all the Parthian rulers, indicating a long rule and probably a vibrant economy.

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

See the [genealogy chart](#).

Coins Attributed to Vologases III

Click on coin images to enlarge:

Sellwood Type 78



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147) Modern Forgery

Click the image at left to see the [forgery](#) of a Sellwood type 78 coin



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with medium length beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); archer's seat omitted; blundered Greek legend

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

Sellwood 78 2

- Sellwood 78.2



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); archer's seat omitted; blundered Greek legend

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

- Sellwood 78.3



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 3.68 g, 20 mm, die axis = 1h

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; archer's seat omitted; blundered Greek legend; monogram Shore 73 below bow

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

- Sellwood 78.3

- Shore 413



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; archer's seat omitted; blundered Greek legend; monogram Shore 73 below bow

Photo/ by permission

- Sellwood 78.3



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); archer's seat omitted; blundered Greek legend

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

- Sellwood 78.3



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust of king facing left, with long pointed beard and an earring visible, wearing a diadem with a loop on the back of the head and three ends; border of dots

Rev/ legend surrounding enthroned archer, and [monogram 26](#)

- Similar Sellwood 78.3 and 78.4 ; the coin appears to mix the legends from these two types, but it also has an extra dot under the archer.



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 3.76 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); archer's seat omitted; Greek legend ii

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5189

- Sellwood 78.4



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 3.58 g, 18 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; archer's seat represented as horizontal line; blundered Greek legend; monogram Shore 73 below bow

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

- Sellwood 78.5

- Shore 415



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; archer's seat represented as horizontal line; blundered Greek legend; monogram Shore 73 below bow

Photo/ by permission [Jim Farr](#)

- Sellwood 78.5

- Shore 415



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 18x20 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; archer's seat represented as horizontal line; blundered Greek legend; monogram Shore 73 below bow

Photo/ by permission [David Garstang](#)

- Sellwood 78.5



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); archer's seat two dots; blundered Greek legend

Photo/ by permission [Old Tenor](#)

- Sellwood 78.6



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 3.64 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; earring visible; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow [monogram 26](#); archer's seat two dots; blundered Greek legend

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5190

- Sellwood 78.6



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 3.4 g, 19 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, pointed beard wearing diadem with two loops, triple three pendant ends; earring visible

Rev/ beardless archer seated right on throne holding bow, [monogram 26](#) below bow; archer's seat omitted. Blundered Greek legend

Photo/ by permission Steve Wilson

- Sellwood 78.8 variant (without the "+" above bow)



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Drachm, 3.72 g, 19 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, narrow pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; border of dots; crude style

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow; no archer's seat; pellet below; blundered Greek legend; monogram Shore 73 below bow

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

- Sellwood 78.11 variant

- Shore 419 variant



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AE Chalkous, 1.24 g, 13 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ unknown, undated

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with long, narrow pointed beard wearing diadem with loop at the top and three ends; border of dots

Rev/ bull facing, running right; crescent (?) above

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

- Sellwood 78.21

- Shore 611

Sellwood Type 79

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



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

Billon Tetrachm, 13.92 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 121/122

Obv/ bust left with short beard; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, three turns of torque; behind, sequence letter Γ; border of dots

Rev/ king enthroned left with scepter, receiving diadem from Tyche standing right; between heads, date ΣΚΥ (S.E. 433), month (probably ΠΕΡΙΤΕΙΟΥ) in exergue off flan; border of dots; inscription [ΒΑΣΙ]ΛΕΩ[Σ Β]ΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ / [ΑΡ]ΣΑΚΟ[Υ] ΟΛΑΓΑΣΟ[Υ] / [ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ] / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟ[ΥΣ] [ΦΙΛ]ΕΛ[ΛΗΝΟΣ]

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

- Sellwood 79.4



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

Billon Tetrachm, 11.8 g, 26.5 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), June A.D. 123

Obv/ bust left with short beard; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, three turns of torque; behind, sequence letter Β; border of dots

Rev/ king enthroned left with scepter, receiving diadem from Tyche standing right; between heads, date ΔΛΥ (S.E. 434), month ΠΑΝΗΜΟΥ (June) in exergue; border of dots; inscription [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ] / [ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΟΛ]ΑΓΑΣΟΥ / ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ / [Ε] ΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ [ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ]

Photo/ by permission [Calgary Coin & Antique Gallery](#)

- Sellwood 79.10



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AR Tetrachm, 13.55 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 123/124

Obv/ bust left with short beard; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, three turns of torque; behind, sequence letter Β; border of dots

Rev/ king enthroned left with scepter, receiving diadem from Tyche standing right; between heads, date ΕΛΥ = 435 Seleucid era, month date in exergue off flan; border of dots; inscription [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑ]ΣΙΛΕ[ΩΝ] / [ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ Ο]ΛΑΓΑΣΟΥ / ΔΙΚΑ[ΙΟΥ] / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟ[ΥΣ] ΦΙΛ[ΕΛΛΗ]ΝΟΣ

Note/ Sellwood lists no month for this issue

Photo/ by permission [Dr Russo Peus](#) Auktion 363. Lot 5191

- Sellwood 79.14
- Shore 410 variant



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

Billon Tetradrachm, 13.86 g

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 124/125

Obv/ bust left with short beard; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, three turns of torque; behind, sequence letter B; border of dots

Rev/ king enthroned left with scepter, receiving diadem from Tyche standing right; between heads, date □ΛΥ, month date in exergue off flan; border of dots; inscription [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Β]ΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΝ] / [ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ Ο]ΛΑΓΑ[ΣΟΥ] / [ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ] / ΕΠΙΦΑΝ[ΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ]

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

- Sellwood 79.17

- Shore 410



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AE Tetrachalkous, 6.8 g, 18 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 111

Obv/ bust left with pointed beard; wearing tiara with hooks on crest, horn on side and two earflaps visible; behind, monogram Shore 53; border of dots

Rev/ Tyche seated left on column; in front, date ΓΚΥ; border of dots

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

- Sellwood 79.39



Vologases III (A.D. 105-147)

AE Tetrachalkous, 8.68 g, 20 mm, die axis = 12h

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), A.D. 118?

Obv/ bare-headed bust left with pointed beard wearing tiara with hooks on top and horn on side(?).

Rev/ bust of Tyche right; legend ΛΥ (?) in front

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

- Sellwood 79.43

- Shore 625 variant

source:

<http://www.parthia.com/vologases3.htm>

