

Vardanes II (c. A.D. 55 - 58)

ΒΑΡΔΑΝΗΣ or ΟΥΑΡΔΑΝΗΣ

See the [genealogy chart](#).

On the tetradrachms of Vardanes II, the character **Ϻ** is a stylized form of Greek letter **Σ** stigma¹ and **ϺΞΤ** (see [detailed image](#)) is 366 (Seleucid era, A.D. 54/5)². Thus the earliest known tetradrachm of Vardanes II is **ϺΞΤΡΑΝΗΜΟΥ** (June A.D. 55), not **ΖΞΤΑΠΕΛΑΙΟΥ** (November A.D. 55) as given by Sellwood [1980, type 69.1]. There are 26 known examples with the **ϺΞΤ** year date which may be viewed at [Vardanes II Tetradrachms Dated 366](#).

The drachms of Vardanes II have five pendants from the king's diadem while similar portraits on [Vardanes I](#) drachms only have three pendants.

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

Coins Attributed to Vardanes II

Click on coin images to enlarge:

Sellwood Type 69



Vardanes II

AR Tetradrachm, 13.97 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), September, A.D. 54

Obv/ bust left with very short beard wearing diadem and spiral torque; four waves in hair cover ear, hair above diadem as ringlets; wart on forehead is visible; circular border of dots

Rev/ male wearing diadem seated left on throne, extending right hand, grasping hilt of sword in left; to his left, Tyche stands right presenting diadem in right hand, and holding scepter in left; above diadem, Greek letters **ϺΞΤ**; in exergue, Greek letters **ΥΠΕΡΒ**; seven-line Greek inscription [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥ]ΕΡΓΕΤ[ΟΥ] ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟ[ΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ], year = 366 Seleucid era

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

- CNG E-Auction 4, lot 59563 (this coin)
- Sellwood 69.1-6 variant (year 366, month ΥΠΕΡΒ)
- Shore 382 variant (year, month)



Vardanes II

AR Tetradrachm, 14.48 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), A.D. 55/56

Obv/ bust left with very short beard wearing diadem and spiral torque; four waves in hair cover ear, hair above diadem as ringlets; wart on forehead is visible; circular border of dots

Rev/ king on throne left, receiving a diadem from Tyche with scepter; Greek legend [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ ΕΥ]ΕΡΓΕΤ[ΟΥ] ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ[Σ ΦΙΛΕ]ΛΛΗΝ[ΟΣ] ΥΠΕΡΒ, year ΖΕΤ = 367 Seleucid era

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#)

- Peus 363, lot 5178 (this coin)

- Sellwood 69.1-6 (month off flan)



Vardanes II

AR Drachm, 3.64 g, 21x17 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with semicircular bottom to beard wearing diadem and three-band spiral torque with no visible end; medium length hair wavy with earring visible; diadem pendants shown as five lines; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on throne, holding bow in right hand; below bow, monogram [[monogram 26](#)]; seven-line Greek inscription (L69ii); no border

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

- Sellwood 69.13

- Shore 384



Vardanes II

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bust left with semicircular bottom to beard wearing diadem and three-band spiral torque with no visible end; medium length hair wavy with earring visible; diadem pendants shown as five lines; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on throne, holding bow in right hand; below bow, monogram [[monogram 26](#)]; seven-line Greek inscription (L69ii); no border

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

- Sellwood 69.13

source: <http://www.parthia.com/vardanes2.htm>