

Darius of Media Atropatene (c. 70 B.C.)

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ

See the [genealogy chart](#). The coins on this site are attributed according to Sellwood, 2nd edition (1980). However:

A. B. Nikitin maintains that Sellwood's types 35 and 36 were actually minted by Phraates III during the lifetime of his father Sinatruces which, Nikitin postulates, was a regular practice among the Arsacids.¹ Fred Shore gives the Sellwood types 35, 36 and 37 to Phraates III.²

Sellwood has later suggested that Darius, now believed to be only a provincial prince or governor, could not be responsible for the widespread issue of the type 35 and 36 coins from numerous mints. This must indicate these types were issued by another king with the requisite wider authority.³

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

Notes:

1. Nikitin, "Early Parthian Coins of Margiana," 1998, p. 17.
2. Fred Shore, *Parthian Coins and History* (1993)
3. David Sellwood, conversation with Chris Hopkins, London, 30 May 1999

Coins Attributed to Darius of Media Atropatene

I here maintain the Sellwood attributions for consistency, without anticipating the changes Sellwood is expected to make in his forthcoming revision to *Introduction to the Coinage of Parthia*.

Click on coin images to enlarge:

Sellwood Type 35



Darius of Media Atropatene

AR Drachm, 4.02 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow monogram. Greek legend Sellwood i: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΗΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ / ΘΕΟΠΑΤΩΡΟΣ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ (left lines read from outside)

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5141

- Sellwood 35.1



Darius of Media Atropatene

AR Drachm

Mint/ [Traxiane](#), undated

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

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, below bow monogram T. Greek legend Sellwood iii:
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [ΘΕ]ΟΠΑΤΩΡΟ[Σ] [ΕΥ]ΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ [ΚΑΙ]
[ΦΙ]ΛΕΛΛΗΝΗ[ΟΣ] (left lines read from outside)

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

- Sellwood 35.11



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE 17 mm, 3.46 gm

Mint/[Ecbatana](#) or [Rhagae](#)?, undated

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

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ horse standing right; Greek legend iii

Photo/ by permission Henri Delger

- Sellwood 35.14 variant (legend iii)



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE 17 mm

Mint/[Ecbatana](#) or [Rhagae](#)?, undated

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ horse walking right; Greek legend Sellwood iii

Prov/ CNG sale 41, lots 832 & 833

Photo/ by permission Gene Brandenburg, [Old Town Coins](#)

- Sellwood 35.15



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE Tetrachalkous, 18 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion
Rev/ horse walking right; Greek legend Sellwood i: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Σ] ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑ[ΚΟΥ] / [ΦΙ]ΛΕΛΛ[ΝΗΟΣ Ε]ΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ / ΘΕΟΠΑΤΩΡΟΣ [Ε]ΥΕΡΓΕΤ[ΟΥ] (left lines read from outside)
Photo/ by permission John Haer, [Flavian Logic Ancient Numismatics](#)
- Sellwood 35.15 variant (legend i)



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE 17 mm, 2.52 gm, die axis = 1h

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#) or [Rhagae](#)?, undated

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ horse right; Greek legend obscured

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

- Sellwood 35.15 or 35.16?



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE 14 mm, 1.91 gm, die axis = 1h

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ Nike walking right with wreath in raised hand; Greek legend Sellwood iii: [ΒΑΣ]ΙΛΕ[ΩΣ]

ΜΕΓΑΛ[ΟΥ] / [ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ] / [ΘΕΟΠΑΤΩΡΟΣ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ] / [ΕΠΙΦ]ΑΝΟΥΣ [ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛ]ΕΛΛΗΝΗΟ[Σ]
(left lines read from outside)

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

- Sellwood 35.17

- Shore 504 (as Phraates III)



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE 15 mm, 1.44 g

Mint/ [Rhagae](#), undated

Obv/ bust facing with short beard wearing necklet with medallion

Rev/ Nike walking right with wreath in raised hand; Greek legend (Sellwood ii?): ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Σ]

ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΑΡΣΑΚΟ[Υ] / [ΘΕΟΠΑΤ????] / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟ[ΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟ[Σ] (left lines read from outside)

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

- Sellwood 35.18 variant (different legend)

- Shore not listed

Sellwood Type 36

There is an interesting anomaly on the Type 36 coins of Darius. A small number of coins clearly bear an earring and a separate web page presents the known examples of these coins. [Click here](#) to view the "earring coins of Darius".



Darius of Media Atropatene

AR Drachm, 19x20 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

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

Obv/ short-bearded bust left wearing diadem and necklet with medallion; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on throne, holding bow in right hand; below bow, monogram ΑΓ; seven-line Greek inscription (L36iii); no border

Photo/ by permission [David Garstang](#)

- Sellwood 36.6 variant (no T behind archer)



Darius of Media Atropatene

AR Drachm, 4.12g, 19mm, die axis 12 o'clock

Mint/ [Mithradatkart](#), undated

Obv/ short-bearded bust left wearing diadem and spiral torque; earring showing; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on throne, holding bow in right hand; below bow, monogram; seven-line Greek inscription (L36iii); no border

Photo/ by permission of an anonymous collector

- Sellwood 36.12 variant (earring)



Darius of Media Atropatene

AR Drachm, 4.14 g

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ short-bearded bust left wearing diadem and necklet with medallion; circular border of dots

Rev/ beardless archer wearing bashlyk and cloak seated right on throne, holding bow in right hand; below bow, monogram; seven-line Greek inscription (L36iv); no border

Photo/ by permission [Dr. Busso Peus](#) Auktion 363, Lot 5142

- Sellwood 36.17

- Shore 160 (as Phraates III)



Darius of Media Atropatene

AE Dichalkous, 2.13 g, 13 mm

Mint/ [Ecbatana](#), undated

Obv/ short-bearded bust left wearing diadem and necklet with medallion, Nike behind flying left; circular border of dots

Rev/ Nike walking right; seven-line Greek inscription (L36iv); no border

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

- Sellwood 36.20

- Shore 163 (as Phraates III)

Sellwood Type 37



Darius of Media Atropatene

AR Tetradrachm, 14.01 g, 30 mm

Mint/ [Seleucia](#), undated

Obv/ bust left with short beard wearing spiral torque and tiara decorated on side with horn; border of dots

Rev/ archer seated right on throne holding bow, B below bow. Greek legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ / [ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ / ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ (left lines read from outside)

Location/ Cabinet des Médailles, [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#) (nc 220)

Photo/ by Chris Hopkins

- Sellwood 37.1

source:

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