Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis. "From Mithradat I (c. 171-138 BCE) to Mithradat II (c. 122/1-91 BCE): The Formation of Arsacid Parthian Iconography"

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- 1 In this paper, the author deals with the transformations the Parthian official coin iconography underwent between Mithridates I and Mithridates II (171-91 BC). After Mithridates' conquest of Media and Mesopotamia, the soft hat of the early Arsacids was substituted by a diadem, the symbol of Hellenistic kingship. Mithridates I adopted the title of philhellene to underline his alliance with his Greek subjects and introduced Iranian elements like the full beard. The title "king of kings" was introduced under that king, but only under his successor Mithridates II, it was adopted permanently. Again, Mithridates I introduced the reverse motifs of the standing Heracles/Verethagna and the seated archer (Arsakes I). With Mithridates II, new oriental elements appeared, especially in the elaborate decoration of the king's and the archer's dress. The jewelled and diademed tiara appears under his rule along with moon crescents and the new title of "Great king of kings".

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