

Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 5, Detail A

MITHRIDATES and ARIARATHES DYNASTIES (Pontus and Cappadocia)

Note: The purpose of this Detail only is to provide general familiarity. It demonstrates complications in tracing dynastic lines fraught with same-named individuals. Data is from *Lempriere* ("L"), pages 375-376 or other page(s) cited and from *Ency.* pages 93-96, with Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 5 as an additional source.

(1) Mithridates/Mithradates

(a) Rulers

Mithridates I, "third king of Pontus;¹ tributary of Persia (Xenophon called him a governor merely, of Cappadocia. He was conquered in battle and unable to gain freedom. He was succeeded by Ariobarzanes B.C. 363."

Ariobarzanes "II" [A], to 338 or 337 b.c.

"Mithridates I of Pontus...got control of Western Asia Minor on the defeat of Lysimachus (281)." (*Ency.* 81)
(Seleucus I died 280 b.c.)

"Mithridates II, grandson to Mithridates I...made himself master of Pontus;" he aided Antiochus Hierax against Seleucus II (Seleucus I had died 280 b.c.). Mithridates II reigned "about 26 years...died at age 84 B.C. 202," and was succeeded by his son, Mithridates III."

(In 241 b.c. Seleucus II recognized his brother, Antiochus Hierax, a younger son of Laodice [#2], as ruler of Asia Minor.)

"Mithridates III was son of Mithridates II., enlarged [his] possessions by the conquest of Cappadocia and Paphlygonia, and died after a reign of 26 years."

Using L's date of 202 as death of Mithridates II, (202 - 26 =) yields 176 b.c. as the approximate last year of Mithridates III).

"Pharnaces, a king of Pontus who made war with Eumenes [of Pergamus] BC 181." (L 459)

"Ariobarzanes [B] [son of Mithridates III per next quotation], and a satrap of Phrygia. After the death of Mithridates [III], he invaded the kingdom of Pontus, Cappadocia and Paphlygonia and kept it for 26 years. He was succeeded by the [another] son of Mithridates [III]." (L 75 and 1826 Ed.)

Using 176 b.c. as approximate last year of Mithridates III, (176 - 26 =) yields 150 b.c. as an approximate last year of Ariobarzanes [B], which does not tally with next.

"Mithridates IV succeeded his father, Ariobarzanes, who was the son of Mithridates III."

"Mithridates IV, king of Pontus since 120, made war on Rome." He absorbed Colchis...the kingdom of Bosphorus...Paphlagonia, and Cappadocia."

"Mithridates V succeeded his father Mithridates IV and strengthened himself on the throne by

¹ According to *Lempriere*, the first king of Pontus was *Artabazes* and possibly the same Artabazes of the seven noble Persians who enabled Darius I's accession. (A *Pharnaces* is suggested by some sources as preceding Mithridates I, which would fit with *Lempriere's* reference to the latter as "third" king.)

an alliance with Antiochus [III] the Great, whose daughter Laodice [#4] he married. He was succeeded by his son, Pharnaces.”

[A *Pharnaces*?--see next.]

“*Mithridates VI* succeeded his *father Pharnaces* [and] was the first king of Pontus to make an alliance with the Romans. He furnished them with a fleet in the third Punic war and assisted them against Aristonicus who had laid claim to the kingdom of Pergamus.”² “He was called *Euergetes* and received from the Roman people the province of Phrygia Major. He was murdered BC 123.”³

“*Mithridates VII* surnamed *Eupator* and *the Great* succeeded his father Mithridates VI...at age 11.” “He [eventually] murdered his own mother, who had been left by his father as co-heiress of the kingdom,” and had to fortify himself by drinking antidotes against murderous attempts by court enemies. “He murdered the two sons whom his sister Laodice [B] had had by Ariarathes [VII], king of Cappadocia,” and he placed one of his own children, only eight years old, on the vacant throne. “These violent proceedings alarmed Nicomedes [II *Philopater*] king of Bithynia,⁴ who married Laodice [B] widow of Ariarathes. Nicomedes suborned a youth, advanced as a third son of Ariarathes, to be king of Cappadocia, and sent Laodice to Rome to impose upon the Senate and assure them that her third [such] son was still alive, and that his pretensions to the kingdom of Cappadocia were just and well grounded.” Mithridates VII made the same argument--that the youth he had on the throne was a legitimate third surviving Cappadocian son. The Romans, displeased, took Cappadocia from him and Paphlagonia from Nicomedes and offered their people freedom. The Cappadocians refused and received Ariobarzanes as king. “Such were the first seeds of enmity” between Rome and Mithridates VII.” *Continued below at (b)*.

Cappadocia

“*Ariobarzanes* [C], made king of Cappadocia by the Romans after the troubles, which the false Ariarathes [above] had raised, subsided. Rome appointed Lucius Cornelius Sulla/Sylla to the task, which he easily effected.⁵ He followed the interest of Pompey, and fought [later, with Pompey] at Pharsalia [48 b.c.] against Julius Caesar. He and his kingdom were preserved by means of Cicero.”⁶ (L 75, 586, 460.)

“*Pharnaces*, a son of Mithridates [VII] king of Pontus, who favored the Romans against his father ...and revolted...even caused his father to be put to death, according to some accounts. In the civil wars of Julius Caesar and Pompey he interested himself for neither.... Julius Caesar turned his army against him and conquered him” (from whence came the famous J. Caesar quote: *veni, vidi, vice*). Pharnaces’ reign is given by one popular source as,

² Ariarathes VI [part (2) below] also “assisted his friends of Rome against Aristonicus.”

³ *Ency.* 37 relates, concerning “Pontus and Paphlagonia, [that] Mithridates I after the battle of Ipsus (301) founded a dynasty that came to an end with the great Mithridates VI Eupator (120-64 b.c.), the implacable enemy of the Romans.” Mithridates VII would appear to be intended?

⁴ Nicomedes II reigned 59 years from the time of driving his father from the kingdom and causing the father’s assassination in 149 b.c. L 397. (149 - 59 = 90 b.c.)

⁵ Lucius Cornelius Sulla/Sylla began as a “young aristocrat and quaestor under [another ambitious Roman general] Marius.” *Botsford* 162. (Subsequent enmity and competition between Sulla and Marius led to civil strife among the Romans, c. 88 b.c.)

⁶ A last *Ariobarzanes* was “a Mede of elegant stature and great prudence, whom [Caesar] Tiberius appointed to settle the troubles of Armenia.” L 75

"Pharnaces II, 63 - 47 b.c."⁷

(b) *Mithridaticum Bellum*⁸

1. The "First" Mithridatic War.

Relentless battling, collectively referred to as the 'Mithridatic War,' between regional contenders and Roman generals, commenced "89 years B.C....one of the longest and most celebrated wars ever carried on by the Romans against a foreign power." "The duration of the Mithridatic War is not precisely known." (It is said to have lasted 40 years, by Justin, Orosius, Florus and Eutropius; in the "opinion of others, 30 years, far more credible [although], by proper calculation, there elapsed no more than 26 years from the time that Mithridates [VII] first entered the field against the Romans, till the time of his death."⁹

Mithridates VII "had taken Asia from the Romans, and Bithynia and Cappadocia from the kings which he had driven out." His "eldest son was in the realm of Pontus and of Bosphorus.... The other also, Ariarathes, was with a great army in conquering of Thracia and Macedon." Among Ariarathes' captains was one "Archelaus, being lord and master of all the sea for the great number of ships he had, [having] conquered the Isle of Cyclades, and all those beyond the head of Malea, and specially amongst others the Isle of Euboea."

Mithridates forces "had made all the nations of Greece [save Athens] to rebel...." In 88 b.c. Rome appointed Sylla/Sulla consul to command the war for Rome. Sulla in Greece first "recovered immediately all the...cities of Greece" except Athens; "drove Mithridates VII's generals, Archelaus and Aristion, back into the Piraeus and Athens, respectively;" and in 86 b.c. conquered Athens. (Over the next year or so he served Archelaus two more defeats, at Chaeronea and Orchomenos.)¹⁰

"Sulla, supported by a fleet collected in Asia and Syria by one L. Licinius Lucullus, moved...into Asia, where Mithridates made peace." "[T]here came one Archelaus a merchant to him...who brought a secret message from th'other Archelaus, King Mithridates lieutenant," requesting a meeting. "[P]eace was concluded between them [Sylla and Archelaus] under conditions that Mithridates should depart from Asia the less, and from Paphlagonia; that he should restore Bithynia unto Nicomedes, and Cappadocia unto Ariobarzanes; that he should pay two thousand talents ["3000 talents"] to the Romans, and give them three score and ten galleys ["80 warships"]¹¹ And upon this Sylla would also assure him the rest of his realm and would cause him to be proclaimed a friend of the Romans."

Mithridates VII reluctantly agreed to the settlement. "Then Sylla saluted, embraced and kissed him, and calling for the kings Nicomedes and Ariobarzanes, reconciled them together, and made Mithridates their friend again." Mithridates "returned to his realm of Pontus." Sylla left "two legions to police Asia and to help Lucullus collect an immense fine of 20,000 talents from the Asiatic cities, while he himself returned to Italy," all c. 84 b.c. (Sylla went on to crush civil warring and associated revolts in Italy, "then had himself appointed [Roman] dictator [ostensibly] for the purpose of restoring the state," but bloodily made himself absolute. He imposed a number of reforms and then voluntarily retired. He "died... about 78 years before Christ." [L 584].)

2. The "Second" Mithridatic War.

⁷ *Wikipedia*, on-line.

⁸ Sources: *Ency.* (see next fn. for pages) and *Plutarch*, vol. I, "The Life of Sylla," pp. 732-801 *en passim*.

⁹ *Ency.* pp. 93, 95 and 128 give the following dates: "First Mithridatic War" 88-84 b.c.; "Second" 83-81; "Third" 74-64 [88 - 64 = 24 years].

¹⁰ An interested reader is referred to *Plutarch* for in-depth details of the several battles in various territories and involved individuals.

¹¹ Bracketed figures are from *Ency.* p. 94.

The second war “resulted from a Roman invasion of Cappadocia and Pontus. After [Roman] victory, peace was renewed on the terms of 84 b.c.”

By 77 b.c., a “brilliant young Roman Commander, Gnaeus Pompeus (Pompey), son of a general...and a protege of Sulla[/Sylla]” had distinguished himself highly in military service. (In his earlier years he had embraced Sulla’s cause.) Pompey became known as “the Great,” for achievements during 73 - 71 b.c. in the “Third Servile War...[which] the Thracian gladiator Spartacus and other gladiators started...seizing Mt. Vesuvius, to which rallied many fugitive slaves.” Pompey returned from service in Spain and “finished off the stragglers.” In 67 b.c. “tribune A. Gabinius secured the passage of the *lex Gabinia*, which conferred upon Pompey for three years the command of the Mediterranean and its coasts for 50 miles inland, equal to that of the governors in each province.... Thus enabled to mobilize all available resources, Pompey in three months cleared the sea of pirates and pacified Cilicia.”

3. The “Third” Mithridatic War.

“Mithridates [VII], encouraged by Rome’s troubles at home, supported his son-in-law Tigranes of Armenia¹² c. 74 b.c., in the annexation of Cappadocia and Syria.” “Nicomedes III of Bithynia bequeathed his kingdom to Rome, presumably to protect it against Mithridates, who nevertheless occupied it.” In 73 b.c. Mithridates VII was driven back by Roman consul Lucullus, who occupied Pontus while Mithridates retreated to the court of Tigranes. Lucullus won one battle with Tigranes; but mutiny among Lucullus’ troops, as they proceeded into Armenia’s mountains, forced him to retire.

In 66 b.c., the Roman *lex Manilia*, supported by orator M. Tullius Cicero, “gave Pompey a command over all Asia equal to that of the governors and valid until the conclusion of the war...(without time limit).”

A battle between Mithridates VII and Pompey near the Euphrates “resulted in a universal overthrow.” Mithridates fled to son-in-law, Tigranes, king of Armenia, who priorly had been a consistent supporter; now, however, Tigranes refused asylum. Mithridates VII found a temporary “safe retreat among the Scythians,” where, although destitute of any true resources, “he meditated [the possibility of] penetrating into the heart of Italy by land.” That, together with others of Mithridates’ “wild projects,” were rejected by his followers; and Mithridates sued for peace, instead. Pompey responded to his ambassadors that Mithridates had to ask in-person, which Mithridates, untrusting, scorned.

Mithridates VII’s subjects and followers withdrew support and made his son, Pharnaces, king. Mithridates “obliged his wife to take poison” and she died. When he failed to die from it, he stabbed himself and still did not die: “A Gaul, who was then present...at his [Mithridates’] request, gave him the final stroke, about 63 years before the christian era, in the 72nd year of his age.”¹³

In “47 b.c., [Julius] Caesar advanced into Syria to meet the son of the great Mithridates, Pharnaces, who had invaded Pontus. On August 2, Caesar defeated him at Zela (*veni, vidi, vici*).” *Ency.* 97.

(c) Two other *Mithraditeses/Mithridateses* listed are:

- (1) *Mithridates*, a herdsman of Astyages; he preserved the life of Cyrus II.
- (2) *Mithridates*, a later king of Pergamus who embraced the cause of Julius Caesar, was made king of Bosphorus by him, and who some supposed to be the son of the great Mithridates [VII] by a concubine.

¹² Refer to Appendix 4B, Attachment 2, P.

¹³ But “according to some writers,” Pharnaces “ordered Mithridates to be put to death.”
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(2) Ariarathes.¹⁴

Ariarathes I

“King of Cappadocia who joined Persian Darius *Ochus* in his expedition against Egypt.

Ariarathes II

Nephew of Ariarathes I; defended his kingdom against Macedonia’s Perdiccas III. Ariarathes II “was defeated and hung on a cross in the 81st year of his age BC 321.”

Ariarathes III

Son of Ariarathes II; escaped the massacre of his father and his father’s followers. “After the death of Perdiccas he recovered Cappadocia by conquering Amyntas, the Macedonian general. He was succeeded by his son Ariamnes.”

Ariamnes

“King of Cappadocia; son of Ariarathes III.”

Ariarathes IV

Succeeded his father Ariamnes, and married Stratonice [#3], daughter of the Seleucid Antiochus Theos [Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 5, (1)]. He died after a reign of 28 years, BC 220, and was succeeded by his son, Ariarathes V, a prince who married Antiochia, the daughter of king Antiochus.

Ariarathes V

Married to Antiochia, the daughter of the Seleucid king Antiochus. “Antiochus being defeated, Ariarathes saved his kingdom from invasion by paying the Romans a large sum of money remitted at the instance of the king of Pergamus.”

Ariarathes VI

“Son of Ariarathes V and the sixth of that name; called *Philopater*, from his piety; succeeded his father BC 166.” He allied with the Romans; was maintained on his throne by Attalus¹⁵; and was killed BC 130 in a war in which he assisted “his friends of Rome against Aristonicus the usurper of Pergamus.” (Mithridates VI, above, also assisted Rome against Aristonicus.) Ariarathes VI left “six children, five of whom were murdered by his surviving wife, Laodice [A]”—Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 5, (1)(a).

Ariarathes VII

“The only one who escaped [Ariarathes VII],” “was proclaimed king and soon after married Laodice [B] the sister of Mithridates [VII] Eupator, by whom he had two sons. He was murdered by an illegitimate brother, upon which his widow Laodice [B] gave herself and kingdom to Nicomedes king of Bithynia.”

Ariarathes VIII

“Mithridates [Eupator] made war against the new king and raised his [own] nephew to the throne.” “The young king, who was the eighth of the name Ariarathes, made war against the tyrannical Mithridates [Eupator], by whom he was assassinated in the presence of both armies.” Mithridates [Eupator] put his eight-year-old son on the throne.

Son of Mithridates Eupator

The Cappadocians revolted and made Ariarathes VIII’s brother, Ariarathes IX king.

¹⁴ Source, *Lempriere* 74.

¹⁵ Not Attalus I, who dates to 229 b.c.
App3A.VI.Att5.DetailA

Ariarathes IX

Mithridates Eupator expelled him and restored his son. (The exiled Ariarathes IX “died of a broken heart.”)

Son of Mithridates Eupator

Nicomedes of Bithynia “interested the Romans in the affairs of Cappadocia,” and “the arbiters wished to make the country free; but the Cappadocians demanded a king, and received Ariobarzanes BC 91 under the name of Ariarathes X.

Ariarathes X

His title was disputed by Sisenna, the eldest son of Glaphyra [A] by Archelaus priest of Comana. M. Antony umpired the contending parties and decided in favor of Sisenna/Archelaus. Although Ariarathes X “recovered it [Cappadocia] for a while...he soon after was obliged to yield in favor of Archelaus, the second son of Glaphyra [A], BC 36.” (Refer to Appendix 4B, Attachment 2, P(1), “Concerning Individuals Named Archelaus.”)