

THE POISON KING: THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF MITHRADATES, ROME'S DEADLIEST ENEMY

Machiavelli praised his military genius. European royalty sought out his secret elixir against poison. His life inspired Mozart's first opera, while for centuries poets and playwrights recited bloody, romantic tales of his victories, defeats, intrigues, concubines, and mysterious death. But until now no modern historian has recounted the full story of Mithradates, the ruthless king and visionary rebel who challenged the power of Rome in the first century BC. In this richly illustrated book--the first biography of Mithradates...

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The Poison King: The Life and Legend of Mithradates, Rome's Deadliest Enemy



Author	Adrienne Mayor
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Peek Inside the Book

Mithradates own handsome coins featured his idealized portrait looking very much like his hero Alexander, with parted lips and luxuriant hair. Imagery evoking Mithradates Persian connections appeared on the reverse, such as winged Pegasus and the star and crescent. Other coins displayed Dionysus the Liberator (associating him with opposition to Rome by slaves and rebels in Italy). Mithradates made sure his portrait was known to everyone....

Reader's Opinions

Mithradates VI of Pontus did nothing by half measures. In the spring of 88 BC he organized the slaughter of essentially all the Roman and Italian residents of the Province of Asia which encompassed western Turkey.