



KOSROW III

Ḳosrow III appears to have come to power between the rule of Queen [Azarmīgduxt](#) (r. 630) and that of Yazdegerd III (r. 632-51), supported by one of the factions in the Sasanian court and the army ([Figure 1](#); Daryaee, pp. 48-49). It should be noted that uncertainty about the order and number of Ḳosrows is due to the period of chaos in the 630s. An Armenian source places Ḳosrow III between the rule of Queen [Bōrān](#) (r. 630-31) and Azarmīgduxt (Sebeos, I, 130; II, 89), where the confusion is due to chronology and contenders who simultaneously attempted to gain power in different parts of the empire (Sebeos II, 89). [Arthur Christensen](#) took a certain Ḳosrow, the son of a prince named Kawād from [Khorasan](#) as Ḳosrow III (Christensen, pp. 498-99), where he can be placed in 630 CE after the reign of Šahrwarāz (Wiesehöfer, p. 152). Ṭabari (I, 1065; tr. Bosworth, p. 407; Kolesnikov, Pers. tr. p. 166), took the Ḳosrow under discussion here as Ḳosrow III (which technically could be counted as Ḳosrow IV), and reported him to be the son of a Mihr-Gošnasp (Ar. Mihr Jushnas), who resided in Ahvāz in Ḳuzestān (Ṭabari, I, 1066; tr. Bosworth, p. 408). Four cities, which minted coins with year two and year three, can be attributed to this Ḳosrow III: Kerman (KL), Susa or [Ērān-āsān-kerd-Kawād](#) (AYLAN), [Eṣṭakr/ Staxr](#) (ST), and WYHC which has been identified variously as 1. “Visp-Šād-Khusraw” (Mochiri, 1983, pp. 221-22); 2. “Veh-az-Amid-Kavād” (Gyselen, p. 210); 3. “Weh-az-Andiok-Khusro” (Schindel, p. 499), and with skepticism for all of the above suggestions (Malek, p. 243). These mints suggest that Ḳosrow III held power in provinces of Ḳuzestan, Fārs, and Kerman, which matches the historical report of Ṭabari. The coins show him beardless as a young man.



Figure 1. Obverse and reverse of silver drachm of Ḳosrow III (mint WYHC); 34 mm, 4.11 grams. Princeton University Library, Special Collections-Numismatics Collection, Coin 11272 (accession no. 702, 2015-05021, Robert Schaaf).

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