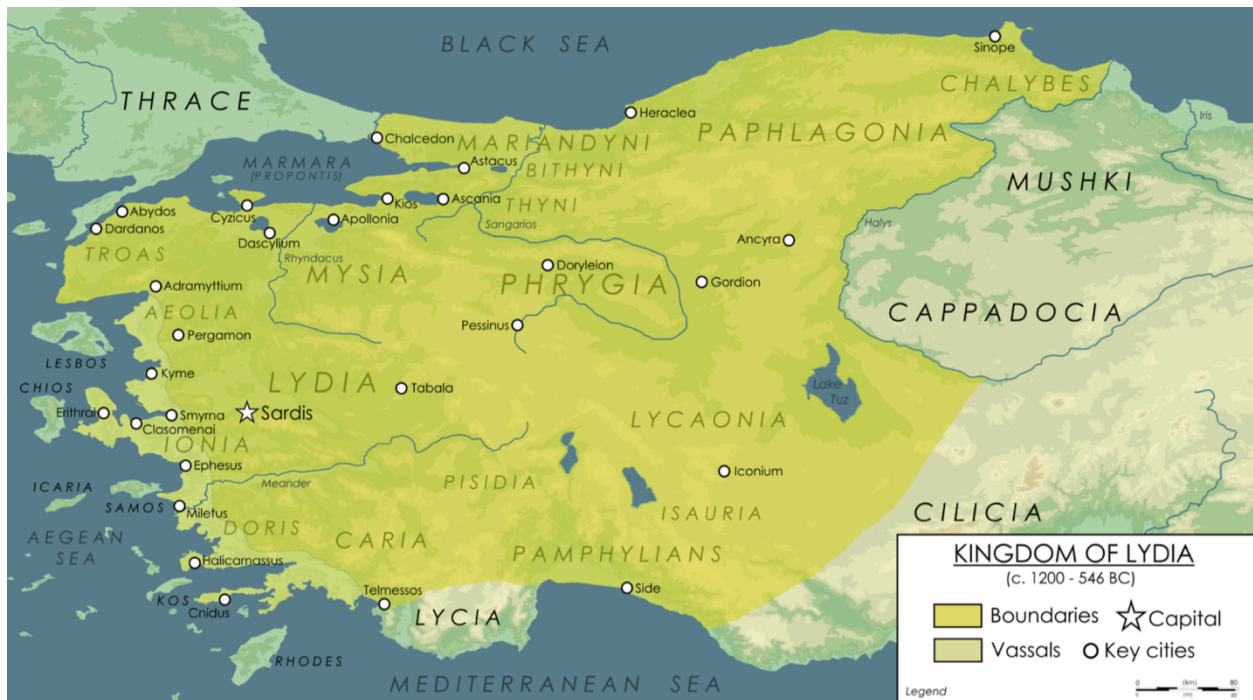


Coins of Lydia



Historical Overview

Pre-Lylian Period (before 1200 BCE)

- **3000-1200 BCE** (Bronze Age): Lydia included in wider Anatolian political and cultural spheres, probably within the Kingdom of Arzawa, which challenged the Hittite Empire.

Early Lylian Period (1200-680 BCE)

- **1200 BCE**: Collapse of the Hittite Empire and other Bronze Age civilizations.
 - Emergence of Lylian powers in the region.
- **680-630 BCE**: (According to Herodotus) the first Lylian King, Gyges, reigned. Founder of the Mermnad dynasty.
 - Capital of kingdom set in the city of Sardis.

The Lydian Empire / The “Golden Age” (680-546 BCE)

- **635-585 BCE:** Reign of King Alyattes.
 - Expanded Lydian Empire to greatest extent.
 - First issues of electrum coinage.



Electrum Trite, Mermnadai, Lydia, 620-564 BCE
Obverse: Head of lion with sunburst (“wart”) on top of head.
Reverse: Two irregular incuse punches.
13.5 x 10.4 mm, 4.6954 g

- **585-546 BCE:** Reign of King Croesus, the last king of the Lydian Empire.
 - Issued first standardized gold and silver coins.



Gold Stater, Sardis (Lydia), 550-546 BCE
Obverse: Roaring lion (left) facing horned bull (right).
Reverse: Irregular shaped incuse punches.
16.5 x 12.9 mm, 8.0506 g
On loan to CU Art Museum, courtesy of John Nebel

Satrapy of Lydia (546-334 BCE)

- **546 BCE:** The Persian King, Cyrus the Great, defeated Croesus, captured Sardis, and absorbed the Lydian Kingdom into the Achaemenid Persian Empire.
- **334 BCE:** Alexander the Great conquered Sardis.
 - Lydia remained a satrapy of the Achaemenid Persian Empire in the Hellenistic Period.