

A U C T I O N

96



The America Collection

A Highly Important selection of Greek Coins

6 October 2016

NUMISMATICA ARS CLASSICA NAC AG
ZÜRICH - LONDON

AUCTION 96

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The America Collection

A Highly Important selection of Greek Coins

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The following terms and conditions are accepted by all persons participating in the auction:

1. Auction bidding is conducted in Swiss Francs. The highest bidder who has been acknowledged by the auctioneer when the hammer falls after the third call has legally bought the lot. Bidding usually begins at 80% of the estimate, provided no higher offers have been submitted. Written bids have priority. The successful bidder has committed himself personally to the purchases made. He cannot claim to have acted on behalf of a third party.

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3. Bidders must show proof of identification before the auction, and subsequently be registered. The Auction House may require a bank reference and/or guarantee. The Auction House reserves the right to deny a person from participating in the auction.
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If the purchases are exported, then the VAT will be refunded on production of a legally valid original export declaration issued by the Swiss Customs.
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11. The contractual relationship between parties is subject in all facets to Swiss law. Place of performance is the registered office of the Auction House in 8001 Zurich, and the exclusive court of jurisdiction is Zurich.

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Du fait de la participation à la vente aux enchères, les conditions suivantes sont réputées être acceptées :

1. Les enchères sont effectuées en Francs Suisses. L'adjudication est réalisée après trois appels consécutifs du plus offrant dont l'offre a été acceptée par le commissaire priseur et qui constitue une obligation. La mise à prix est effectuée en règle générale à 80 %, dans la mesure où il n'y a pas d'offres disponibles et plus élevées. Les offres formulées par écrit sont prioritaires. Chaque enchérisseur s'engage personnellement en ce qui concerne les acquisitions réalisées par ses soins. Il ne peut pas faire valoir le fait d'avoir agi pour le compte d'une tierce personne.
2. Les demandes d'enchères par téléphone ou par écrit (également par moyen électronique) pour les personnes intéressées et non présentes sont réceptionnées jusqu'à 24 heures avant le début de la vente aux enchères. Les enchérisseurs par téléphone acceptent que la communication téléphonique puisse être enregistrée. La salle des ventes n'assume aucune responsabilité quant aux enchères effectuées par téléphone, électronique ou par écrit.
3. Les enchérisseurs sont priés de se légitimer avant la vente aux enchères et de se faire enregistrer à l'issue de la vente. La salle des ventes peut exiger une référence bancaire et/ou une garantie. La salle des ventes a le droit de ne pas laisser une personne participer à la vente aux enchères.

4. L'enchérisseur peut, à sa guise, surenchérir une offre ou bien la décliner sans indication de motifs. L'enchérisseur se réserve en outre le droit d'associer des lots, de les séparer, de faire des offres en dehors de l'ordre prévu ou de les laisser de côté, voire de se retirer de la vente aux enchères.
5. Une commission de 20% est perçue sur le prix d'adjudication. Les acquéreurs qui souhaitent participer aux enchères par téléphone ou en ligne avec nos facilités Live Internet paieront un frais supplémentaire de 1,5%. La taxe à la valeur ajoutée suisse d'un montant de 8,0 % sera perçue sur le prix définitif (prix d'adjudication plus supplément et sur tous les autres montants facturés à l'acquéreur par la salle des ventes). **Les pièces de monnaie en or (AV) sont dispensées de la TVA.**
En cas d'exportation de l'objet adjugé vers l'étranger, l'acquéreur se voit restituer la TVA lorsqu'il est en mesure de présenter une déclaration d'exportation réglementaire, en bonne et due forme, des autorités douanières suisses.
6. Le prix total en francs suisses est exigible immédiatement après adjudication et doit être acquitté lors de la remise de l'objet adjugé. Pour les paiements effectués ultérieurement un intérêt moratoire de 1% par mois sera facturé. La transmission de la propriété à l'acquéreur a lieu seulement à paiement intégral. En général, NAC ne remet l'objet adjugé à l'acquéreur pas avant paiement. Une éventuelle remise de l'objet n'a cependant pas de l'influence ni sur la propriété du vendeur ni sur l'obligation de l'acquéreur de payer.
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7. Les frais d'envoi et d'assurance sont à charge et au risque de l'acheteur. Les taxes ou les impôts facturés à l'étranger sont à la charge de l'acquéreur (enchérisseur). Il lui incombe de s'informer au sujet des directives étrangères en matière de douane et de devises. La salle des ventes décline toute responsabilité pour les éventuelles infractions à l'encontre de ces directives.
8. **La salle des ventes garantit l'authenticité des monnaies sans réserve et sans limitation dans le temps.**
Toutes les indications mentionnées dans le catalogue sont rassemblées en toute conscience et en toute bonne foi.
9. Les objets mis aux enchères le sont pour le compte de tierces personnes ou bien sont la propriété de la salle des ventes. L'acquéreur (enchérisseur) n'a aucun droit d'obtenir communication du nom de la personne qui met en vente et se déclare en accord avec le fait que la salle des ventes perçoive une provision de cette dernière.
10. Les présentes conditions font partie intégrante de tout contrat de vente conclu dans le cadre de la vente aux enchères. Les modifications ne sont valables que par écrit. Le fait que des parties des présentes conditions de vente aux enchères venaient à ne plus correspondre, ou du moins plus intégralement, à la situation juridique en vigueur, n'affecte en rien les autres parties, ni dans leur contenu, ni dans leur validité. La version en langue allemande constitue la référence des présentes conditions de vente aux enchères.
11. La relation contractuelle entre les parties en cause est soumise, dans toutes ses composantes, au droit Suisse. La compétence juridique est fixée au siège de la salle des ventes à 8001 Zurich, et le for juridique exclusif est Zurich.

Condizioni di vendita

La partecipazione all'asta comporta l'accettazione delle seguenti condizioni:

1. La valuta in cui viene condotta l'asta è il Franco Svizzero. L'aggiudicazione al miglior offerente, individuato dal banditore, avviene dopo la terza chiamata e comporta per l'aggiudicatario l'acquisto con tutti i relativi obblighi di legge. Le offerte partono generalmente dall'80% del prezzo di stima a meno che una o più offerte d'importo maggiore siano state presentate. Le offerte scritte hanno la precedenza. Il partecipante all'asta è personalmente responsabile per l'acquisto effettuato e non può pretendere di avere agito per conto di terzi.
2. I partecipanti all'asta non presenti in sala possono presentare offerte telefonicamente, in forma scritta, o per via elettronica fino a 24 ore prima dell'inizio dell'asta. Chi trasmette la propria offerta telefonicamente presta il proprio consenso all'eventuale registrazione della telefonata. La casa d'asta non assume alcun tipo di responsabilità per le offerte trasmesse in forma scritta, elettronica o telefonica.
3. I partecipanti, per concorrere all'asta, dovranno esibire un documento d'identità e registrarsi. La casa d'asta si riserva il diritto di richiedere referenze bancarie o un deposito cauzionale per permettere la partecipazione all'asta. La casa d'asta si riserva inoltre il diritto di non permettere a un soggetto la partecipazione all'asta.
4. Il banditore d'asta ha facoltà di aumentare o rifiutare un'offerta secondo la propria discrezionalità e senza necessità di fornire una motivazione. Il banditore si riserva inoltre il diritto di unire, separare, cambiare la sequenza prevista o di eliminare e/o ritirare dall'asta determinati lotti.

5. Al prezzo d'aggiudicazione va aggiunta una commissione del 20%. Gli offerenti che parteciperanno all'asta per telefono o 'live' attraverso internet pagheranno un costo supplementare dell'1,5%. L'imposta svizzera sul valore aggiunto, pari attualmente al 8,0%, viene applicata sul prezzo finale (prezzo d'aggiudicazione più commissione ed ogni altro importo imputabile al compratore dalla casa d'aste). **Le monete in oro (AV) sono esonerate dal pagamento dell'IVA.**
In caso d'esportazione dell'oggetto acquistato all'asta verso un paese estero, il compratore ha diritto al rimborso dell'IVA dietro consegna di una valida dichiarazione d'esportazione dell'ufficio doganale della Confederazione Elvetica.
6. Il pagamento è da effettuarsi in Franchi Svizzeri immediatamente all'aggiudicazione del lotto, a meno che concordato diversamente prima dell'asta. In caso di ritardato pagamento il tasso d'interesse moratorio applicabile è pari all'1% mensile. La proprietà del lotto non passerà al compratore fino a che la NAC non riceverà il pagamento a saldo dell'acquisto. Generalmente la NAC non rilascia un lotto al compratore prima di ricevere il pagamento di tale. La consegna anticipata di un lotto non incide sulla proprietà di tale ne' sull'obbligo di pagamento da parte del compratore.
Se il compratore non paga subito e nel caso in cui egli non effettui il pagamento entro 5 giorni dalla ricezione di una raccomandata, scritta da NAC come avviso di mancato pagamento, la NAC si riserverà la facoltà di cancellare la vendita di tale lotto.
7. I costi ed il rischio della spedizione sono a carico del destinatario. Qualunque imposta e contributo legalmente dovuto nel paese d'esportazione è a carico dell'acquirente (compratore in sede d'asta) su cui ricade la responsabilità per la conoscenza delle norme vigenti in materia doganale e di valuta. La casa d'aste non assume alcuna responsabilità per l'eventuale violazione di tali prescrizioni.
8. **La casa d'asta offre una garanzia incondizionata e senza riserva di tempo sull'autenticità delle monete.**
Le indicazioni e descrizioni contenute nel catalogo sono opinioni soggettive e sono espresse in buona fede.
9. Gli oggetti offerti vengono messi all'asta per conto di terzi o sono di proprietà della casa d'asta. L'acquirente (compratore in sede d'asta) non ha il diritto di conoscere l'identità del consegnatario dell'oggetto e prende atto che alla casa d'asta potrebbe venir corrisposta dal consegnatario una commissione per la vendita.
10. Le condizioni sopra menzionate costituiscono parte integrante di ciascun contratto individuale di vendita concluso nell'asta. Eventuali modifiche saranno ritenute valide solo se fatte in forma scritta. Nel caso in cui una parte delle presenti Condizioni di Vendita dovesse essere non più totalmente conforme alla vigenti disposizioni di legge, cioè non avrà effetto sulla validità delle parti restanti. L'unica versione di testo delle Condizioni di Vendita che ha valore legale è quella in lingua tedesca.
11. Il rapporto contrattuale fra le parti è regolato in tutti i suoi aspetti dal diritto della Confederazione Elvetica. Il luogo d'adempimento è la sede della casa d'aste a Zurigo (8001). Il foro competente è esclusivamente quello di Zurigo.

US IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON COINS OF ITALIAN AND GREEK TYPE

None of the coins offered in this sale are subject to any kind of US import restrictions, since we are in possession of the necessary documentation for importation into the United States.

Nevertheless, Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG endeavours to provide its American clients with the best service possible and we will therefore take it upon ourselves whenever possible to carry out all of the customs formalities for importation into the USA and will then ship the lots to each individual client from within the United States.

TIME TABLE ZEITTADEL ORDRE DE VENTE ORDINE DI VENDITA

Thursday, 6 October 2016 17:30 – 19:15 1001 – 1152

EXHIBITIONS AUSSTELLUNG EXPOSITION ESPOSIZIONI

London – At our premises

1 – 22 September 2016

Monday to Friday 9:30 – 17:30
Saturday & Sunday by appointment only

Zurich

At the Zurich premises (2 nd Floor):	Monday, 3 October 2016	09:30 – 17:30
	Tuesday, 4 October 2016	09:30 – 17:30
At the Hotel Baur au Lac, Talstrasse 1, 8001 Zurich:	Wednesday, 5 October 2016	09:30 – 18:00
	Thursday, 6 October 2016	09:00 – 13:00

Please visit our auction online at www.arsclassicacoins.com

Die Auktion erfolgt unter Mitwirkung eines Beamten des Stadttammannamtes Zürich 1. Jede Haftung des anwesenden Beamten, der Gemeinde und des Staates für Handlungen des Auktionators entfällt.

Gradi di conservazione	Grades of preservation	Erhaltungsgrad	Degrés de conservation	Grados de Conservación
Fdc Fior di conio	Fdc Uncirculated	Stempelglanz	Fleur de coin (FDC)	FDC
Spl Splendido	Extremely fine	Vorzüglich	Superbe	EBC
BB Bellissimo	Very fine	Sehr schön	Très beau	MBC
MB Molto bello	Fine	Schön	Beau	BC

Foreword

The ability to assemble something exceptional within a limited time-span is a distinctive feature of American collecting, but the passion and determination that these collectors dedicate to their pursuit is of such intensity that they often cannot be sustained for more than a relatively short period of time.

The America Collection was built over the course of less than ten years and what our anonymous collector succeeded in putting together is truly impressive, especially considering that for at least three years (when Sheikh Saoud Al Thani was most active), our collector sagely kept his acquisitions of Greek coins to a minimum. In the years that followed, when the market was still dispirited and scorched by the Sheikh's activity which had made it almost impossible to purchase important Greek coins, our anonymous collector acted on his own initiative and had the acumen to purchase a good number of the finest and most important coins that appeared on the market. In the process of building the collection, no metal or geographical area was overlooked. The result is a magnificent group of coins which exhaustively covers almost all regions of the Greek world in such a way that it presents us with a thrilling virtual tour of the history of the ancient Greek world through its coinage.

Our tour begins geographically with Magna Graecia where our collector bought some exquisite coins, such as the incuse nomos of Poseidonia (lot 1007) and two remarkable incuse nomoi of Caulonia (lots 1010 and 1011).

The selection of Sicilian coins is absolutely exceptional and our collector's choices wholly reflect his sensitivity and numismatic competence. Not only did he acquire many key coins, but he also succeeded in identifying the most accomplished works of their respective series. If we take, for example, the mint of Catana, here our collector has chosen two of the best representations of Apollo that this mint ever produced; one bears a profile portrait of the divinity (lot 1013) and the other facing (lot 1014). Our journey continues in Sicily with one of the most majestic and enchanting coins of the Greek world: the archaic tetradrachm of Naxos (lot 1019). This specimen is not only in an excellent state of preservation, but it also has a matchless pedigree: its first appearance at auction was in the late 1800s and part of its history includes some years in the British Museum collection before it was exchanged as a duplicate in 1948.

The collection's representation of Syracuse is truly admirable with a prodigious series of tetradrachms and decadrachms. We cannot fail to mention two magnificent tetradrachms, both bearing superb Classical portraits of Arethusa (lots 1022 and 1023); these coins were part of a small selection chosen from the celebrated Moretti collection to be exhibited for almost ten years at the Antike Museum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig from the late 1980s to the late 1990s. The three decadrachms, one work by Kimon (lot 1024) and two by Euainetos (lots 1025 and 1026), are also sensational. Each coin, once again, boasts a sublime state of preservation teamed with a highly

prestigious pedigree. The Hellenistic period is embellished by an extremely rare 16 litrae bearing a portrait of Zeus of exceptional artistic quality (lot 1032). Our Sicilian voyage comes to an end with a series of spectacular Siculo-Punic tetradrachms; one coin of especial note features a magnificent portrait of Tanit (lot 1039) wearing a Phrygian tiara; traditionally the portrait on this coin was identified as Carthage's founder, Dido, however this attribution has since been revisited. Artistically the most beautiful Siculo-Punic issue, the coin is exceptionally well-preserved and is probably the best example in existence. Interestingly, when the coin appeared previously at auction, I had doubts regarding its authenticity and, not having the possibility of inspecting it in person, I advised one of my clients against purchasing it. Only after having had the coin in my hand, and having compared it in the flesh with the British Museum specimen, was I able to eliminate those doubts.

This episode prompted me to reflect on the many numismatic blogs and forums available on the internet. These blogs are visited by both competent and less competent collectors alike; professionals in the sector and, unfortunately, also by people involved in the production and distribution of forgeries. Discussions on the authenticity of coins are often interesting and serve as a prompt for further study, but too often they become a minefield in which one finds debates between people who do not possess the necessary competencies, or worse still, individuals who have personal motives to discredit serious professionals and auction houses. These discussions all take place behind the smokescreen of anonymous usernames and without the fundamental means of determining a coin's authenticity: direct examination of the coin in person, rather than a photo, alongside that of an authentic specimen.

Continuing with our Greek journey, the Thraco-Macedonian selection features a beautiful early tetradrachm of Acanthus (lot 1042), as well as a magnificent Aenus tetradrachm (lot 1056) which is one of the finest specimens known, a very interesting tetradrachm of Abdera (lot 1054) and an impressive Bisaltae octodrachm (lot 1053).

The selection of Athenian tetradrachms (lots 1065 – 1073) presents one of the best series to appear at public auction within the last 20 years, with an impressive array of archaic and classical tetradrachms all of outstanding quality.

We must mention two spectacular stateres of Elis (lots 1078-1079); both with prestigious provenances, each boasting a portrait of Zeus emanating exceptional artistic quality. The same applies without doubt to two magnificent tetradrachms of Rhodes (lots 1102-1103).

The high standard of the collection continues with its series of Ptolemaic coins which includes some exceptional pieces, such as the octodrachm and pentradrachm of Berenice (lot 1142-1143), as well as one of the most important and prestigious coins of the whole auction: the exceedingly rare octodrachm of Ptolemy IV (lot 1146) which has what can be considered the best portrait found in all Ptolemaic coinage and one of the finest in the entirety of all known Hellenistic coinage.

The auction bows out with two wonderful tetradrachms of Cyrene (lots 1149 and 1150) which feature two portraits of entirely differing styles, though each was surely executed by a very skilled master engraver.

For this auction, at the request of the collector and to highlight the enormous importance of the collection, we have chosen a different catalogue layout. A second catalogue that includes the Roman coinage of the same collection will be published in the coming months.

Together the two catalogues build one of the most significant collections of ancient coins to be offered at auction in the last thirty years. Collectors very often tend to limit their field of interest to a specific scope, which is then further limited geographically or temporally. In stark contrast, our collector, a true lover of coins, never had any intention to narrow his field of interest, but instead always strived to find the best specimens available throughout each period of the ancient world. We cannot stress enough that the result achieved is absolutely remarkable and in the years to come the America collection will be regarded as one of the most complete and impressive collection of Ancient Coins to have been offered in public auction. It is without a doubt that this pedigree will be regarded with great prestige.

Although it can in no way replace the coins themselves, we hope that our catalogue can provide a lasting memory to our collector of the tremendous achievement he has made in assembling such a magnificent collection. We are in no doubt that his coins will invoke his same passion and drive for numismatic collecting in their future owners.



Greek Coins



	Calabria, Tarentum. Nomos circa 355-340 BC, AR 7.89 g.
1001	<p>Description Helmeted and naked horseman holding shield and vaulting from horse prancing l.; beneath horse, wreath. Rev. TAPAΕ Dolphin rider r., holding spear in r. hand and trident in l.; beneath, T-A.</p> <p>References Vlasto, NC 1907, pl. X, 6 Vlasto 392 (these dies) Fischer Bossert 638b (this coin) Historia Numorum Italy 870</p> <p>Condition Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Of superb style and with a delicate old cabinet tone. Extremely fine</p> <p>Provenance Hess-Leu sale 15, 1960, 32</p>
	CHF 6'000

In mythology, Taras was the one of the many offspring of Poseidon, produced from a union of the god of the sea with the Tarentine nymph Satyrion. Shipwrecked in a violent storm off the coast of southern Italy, his father sent a dolphin to deliver Taras safely to land. At the spot where he was miraculously delivered ashore and knowing the rescue to have been divinely inspired, he founded the city of Tarentum. Or so the story goes. Historically this important city was founded in the late eighth century B.C. by colonists under the leadership of Phalanthos from Sparta, the only colony of that city, and throughout its history the colony and mother city maintained close ties.

The coinage of Tarentum began towards the end of the sixth century B.C. and copied the incuse fabric then prevalent at other mints in Magna Graecia, such as at Poseidonia and Thurium. The principal type of the city and the image most closely associated with Tarentum was the young male dolphin-rider, whose identity is still debated; some identify him with Taras, the city's eponymous founder, others with the historical founder, Phalanthos. The incuse fabric that was prevalent on the city's first coinage was soon replaced by types in relief on both faces, and by the end of the fifth century they had evolved to depict variously a youth or warrior on horseback on the obverse, and the dolphin rider on the reverse. The figure on horseback is at times merely agonistic, at others he is shown armed with spears and shield, and performing martial exercises. These probably do not relate to any historical event, but rather allude to equestrian exercises at sporting events popular amongst the Tarentine elite.



1002

Calabria, Tarentum. Nomos circa 333-331/330 BC, AR 7.82 g.

- 1002 **Description** Naked horseman r., spearing downward with r. hand and holding shield and two further spears with l.; in field, Π – Λ and below horse, KAA / A. Rev. ΤΑΡΑΣ Dolphin rider r., holding crested Phrygian helmet; on either side, star and below, API.
- References** Locker Lampson 13 (this coin)
 Vlasto 554
 SNG Lloyd 178 (these dies)
 Fischer Bossert 770h (this coin)
 Kent-Hirmer pl. 107, 311
 Historia Numorum Italy 896
- Condition** Of masterly style and with a delightful old cabinet tone. Reverse slightly off-centre, otherwise good extremely fine
- Provenance** Ars Classica sale XVI, 1933, Arthur Colgate collection, 73
 Hess-Leu sale 49, 1971, Desneux collection, 14
 Leu sale 81, 2001, Abecassis collection, 9
 Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 314
 The Locker Lampson collection
 The collection of the Money Museum Zürich
 From the Carosino hoard of 1905 (IGCH 1928)

CHF 6'000

No other series of Greek coins offers such a consistently high degree of style for so long a period of time, and the brilliant variety for which Tarentine coins are famous make it one of the most desirable areas in all of Greek coinage to collect. On this coin we see the rider on horseback exercising his martial prowess, galloping forward and preparing to thrust a javelin into an object which the viewer does not see. On his far side he carries a round shield and two additional spears. The reverse depicts the dolphin rider facing to the right, holding a helmet of Phrygian design with cheek guards and a long, sweeping crest. Two stars in the fields flank the dolphin rider, and should perhaps be interpreted as alluding to the Dioskouroi and thus to Sparta. If so, then the design should be seen in light of the ill-fated expedition of the Spartan king Archidamos III. In 343/2 B.C. at the request of the city's leading citizens, the Spartan king arrived with a fleet and soldiers in order to help the Tarentines to repel incursions by their Italic neighbors, notably the noisome Lucanians to Tarentum's north and west. He was subsequently killed during the fighting, and the dolphin rider here may be thought of as mourning the slain Spartan king.



Calabria, Tarentum. Stater circa 276-272 BC, AV 8.58 g.

- 1003 **Description** Laureate head of Zeus l.; behind, NK ligate. Rev. TAPANTINΩN Eagle with open wings standing r., perched on thunderbolt; before, two *amphorae*. On top of l. wing, [NIKAP].
- References** Vlasto 40
Gulbenkian 41 (these dies)
SNG ANS 1039
Fischer Bossert G42f (this coin)
Historia Numorum Italy 983
- Condition** Very rare. A very attractive portrait struck in high relief and a light reddish tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 2, 1972, 21
Giessener Münzhandlung sale 42, 1988, 18
Leu sale 72, 1998, 22
Sincona sale 4, 2011, 4003

CHF 18'000

This very rare gold stater dates to the time of King Pyrrhos of Epiros' involvement in Tarentine affairs in southern Italy. During the first decades of the third century B.C., Roman power had extended to most of Italy. Attempting to subdue the loose tribal confederation of Lucanians in the southwestern tip of the peninsula who had proven a nuisance to their ambitions, the Romans violated their preexisting treaty with Tarentum when they sent warships into the Tarentine Gulf to blockade the city of Thurium. The Tarentines responded in force, expelling the garrison which the Romans had installed at Thurium. Knowing that this would precipitate an unwanted war with Rome for which they were unprepared, the people of Tarentum called on Pyrrhos for assistance.

At the time that this request from Tarentum came, Pyrrhos had just been evicted from his Macedonian possessions by King Lysimachus of Thrace. The previous decades had seen Pyrrhos largely as a pawn in the great games of the warring Diadochs, the successors of Alexander the Great, and their sons. While he had certainly proven to be a capable and dynamic general during these events, at the time Tarentum called on him, having recently lost his kingdom in Macedonia and reduced to only his possessions in Epiros (and that owing substantially to financial and material support from the Ptolemaic Kingdom in Egypt), the prospect of a western campaign offered Pyrrhos an outlet for his energies as well as a chance for expanding his domain and for earning greater glory.

While Pyrrhos defeated the Romans decisively in three engagements, he had not counted on Roman tenacity. At this time the Romans controlled an incredibly vast territory and also had the support of a large network of allied states, all of which could provide more troops and materiel. Additionally, his gains were not without cost: in each engagement he lost large numbers of his most experienced officers, which indeed provides some insight into Roman military tactics. According to Plutarch, these losses caused him to quip "[if] we are victorious in one more battle with the Romans, we shall be utterly ruined" (Plutarch, *Pyrrhus* 21.9), which gives us the modern phrase *Pyrrhic victory*, meaning a success earned at such a heavy toll that any sense of achievement or profit is negated.

The gold of Tarentum is all very rare today, but must have originally seen a very large output. In addition to staters, there are halves, thirds, quarters, eighths, tenths, twelfths, and sixteenths. Additionally at this time the silver nomoi were reduced in weight from circa 7.9 g to circa 6.6 g, and were struck in prodigious quantities. This increased productivity simply illustrates the effect of war on a mint, especially of a city like Tarentum needed to hire mercenaries in order to wage war. The gold is often signed, as in the case here with the signature NIKAP (other signatures that appear are ΣΩΚ and ΑΠΟΑ), and features the portraits of Zeus, Herakles, Apollo and Athena on the obverse, with either their respective animals (the eagle and the owl) or representations of eponymous founder of Tarentum, Taras, either driving a biga of horses or of dolphins, on the reverse.



1004



1005



1006



Calabria, Tarentum. Nomos circa 240-228 BC, AR 6.64 g.

1004 **Description** Horseman in military attire facing slightly r. and extending his r. hand; above, a small wreath-bearing Nike flying r. to crown him. In l. field, monogram and, beneath horse, KΑΛΛΙ[KPA] / THΣ. Rev. Taras on dolphin l., holding trident and a small wreath-bearing Nike; behind, NE ligate and beneath dolphin, TAPAΣ.

References Vlasto 966
SNG ANS 1260
Historia Numorum Italy 1059

Condition In exceptional condition for the issue. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

Provenance Peus sale 396, 2008, 63

CHF 2'500

Lucania, Heraclea. Nomos circa 330-325 BC, AR 7.90 g.

1005 **Description** [←HPAKΛHION] Head of Athena r., wearing helmet decorated with Scylla hurling stone; behind neck, K. Rev. ←HPAKΛHION Heracles standing facing, holding club, bow, arrows and lion's skin; in l. field, ΑΘΑ and jug.

References SNG ANS 74
Van Keuren 84
Historia Numorum Italy 1384

Condition Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine

Provenance Heritage Signature sale 3037, 2015, California collection, 30857

CHF 4'000

Lucania, Metapontum. Nomos circa 495-480 BC, AR 8.09 g.

1006 **Description** META Ear of barley. Rev. The same type incuse.

References Noe-Johnston 180
SNG Oxford 655
SNG ANS 226
Historia Numorum Italy 1482

Condition Well struck in high relief and with a superb old cabinet tone. Extremely fine

Provenance NAC sale 27, 2004, 33
Künker sale 262, 2015, 7033
The A.D.M. collection.

CHF 3'000





1007

1007

Lucania, Poseidonia. Nomos circa 530-500 BC, AR 6.49 g.

1007 Description ΠΙΟΣ Poseidon, nude but for *chlamys* draped over his arms, standing r., hurling trident held aloft in r. hand, l. arm extended. Rev. ΠΙΟΣ The same type incuse.

References Jameson 331
Gorini 3
SNG ANS 604-5
AMB 158
Dewing 396
Gillet 206 (these dies)
Kraay-Hirmer 219
Historia Numorum Italy 1107

Condition Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Struck on unusually fresh metal and with a lovely iridescent tone. About extremely fine / good very fine

Provenance Tkalec sale 19 February 2001, 8
Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 326
The collection of the Money Museum Zürich

CHF 25'000

Poseidonia was located on a large, fertile plain along the Tyrrhenian coast at the mouth of the river Silaris. It was ideal for trade and agriculture, but was vulnerable to sea-borne attacks and raids from the inland hills. The archaeological record shows that Poseidonia had been populated by the 8th or 7th Century B.C., long before its 'foundation' by colonists from Sybaris, as related by Strabo.

Though Poseidonia may have played a role in the famed trade between the Etruscans and the Sybarites, commercial ties between Poseidonia and its mother city could not have been too strong since the early coins of Poseidonia were struck to the Campanian-Phocaeian standard rather than the Italic-Achaean standard used at Sybaris. Their relationship must have been reasonably strong, though, for Poseidonia accepted Sybarites who in 510 sought refuge after their city was destroyed by Croton.

Incuse coinage was struck in Poseidonia from about 530 to 500 B.C. showing a heraldic figure of the sea-god Poseidon striding forward with his trident raised as if ready to be thrown. Most scholars have, with good reason, assumed that this figure was inspired by a statue, for it has a monumental quality. The reverse, though less artistic than the obverse, is no less interesting in its composition: it is a complex image with the body and corded border set incuse, yet the *chlamys*, hair detail, trident, and inscription are all shown in relief.

The archaic qualities of this coin are a delight. The composition is stiff and formal, the hair is rendered as a series of pellets, the sculpted beard ends in a sharp point, the eye and the legs are shown in profile, yet the chest is presented frontally with the torso tapering toward the hips. Even the cord-and-pellet border is produced in a way to generate a sense of motion: one wonders if it was intended as a series of stylized waves or serpent-heads.

Though the principal design of Poseidon's striding figure remained unchanged through three decades of production, there is much variance of details from one die to the next. The trident can be plain, with barbs, and with ornamentation; the long strands of Poseidon's hair can be gathered at the back of his head or, as here, shown loose; and the *chlamys* can be depicted in many ways depending on the design of its fabric and how its ends are formed. Even a major detail, such as whether or not Poseidon wears a cap, can vary from die to die.



Lucania, Thurium. Di-nomos circa 350 BC, AR 15.59 g.

- 1008 **Description** Head of Athena r., wearing crested Attic helmet decorated with Scylla holding trident. Rev. ΘΟΥΠΙΩΝ Bull butting r.; in exergue, two fish r.
- References** Noe, ANSNNM 71, H 8
Dewing 432
Historia Numorum Italy 1807
- Condition** Of masterly style and with a delicate old cabinet tone. Invisible graffito on reverse, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Hess-Leu sale 45, 1970, 21
Hirsch sale 313, 2015, 2004

CHF 3'500



Bruttium, The Brettii. Drachm circa 216-214 BC, AR 4.68 g.

- 1009 **Description** Diademed bust of Nike r. Rev. ΒΡΕΤΤΙΩΝ Naked river-god facing with *chlamys* over l. arm, crowning himself and holding sceptre; in r. field, thunderbolt.
- References** Scheu, NC 1962, p. 46, S6
Arslan, Brettii, 103
Historia Numorum Italy 1958
- Condition** In exceptional condition for the issue. Perfectly struck and centred on a large flan and with a delicate old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** M&M sale 54, 1978, 66
Hirsch sale 313, 2015, 2006

CHF 2'500



1010

1010 *Description***Bruttium, Caulonia. Nomos circa 525-500 BC, AR 8.07 g.**

KAVA Apollo, diademed, walking r., holding laurel branch in upraised r. hand and small running *daimon* who holds long branch on outstretched l. arm; in r. field, stag r. on platform, with head reverted. Rev. The same type partially incuse l. without legend.

References

Noe Caulonia, Group A2e (this coin)
Locker-Lampson 43 (this coin)
SNG Lloyd 572 (these dies)
SNG ANS 141 (these dies)
Historia Numorum Italy 2035 (these dies)

Condition

Well struck and centred on fresh metal in high relief and with a wonderful old cabinet tone. Unobtrusive die-break on obverse field, otherwise good extremely fine

Provenance

NAC sale 25, 2003, 38
Stack's sale 14 January 2008, Lawrence R. Stack collection, 2039
Hess-Divo sale 326, 2014, 13
The Locker-Lampson collection

CHF 25'000



1011

1011 *Description***Bruttium, Caulonia. Nomos circa 525-500 BC, AR 8.25 g.**

KAVA Apollo, diademed, walking r., holding laurel branch in upraised r. hand and small running *daimon* who holds long branch on outstretched l. arm; in r. field, stag r. on platform, with head reverted. Rev. The same type incuse l. without legend.

References

Noe Caulonia, Group A8
SNG ANS 145
Weber 982 (these dies)
Historia Numorum Italy 2035

Condition

Well struck and centred on a very broad flan and with a superb old cabinet tone. Extremely fine

Provenance

Privately purchased from Spink & Son on 20 April 1986
New York sale XXVII, 2012, Prospero collection, 97
Künker sale 262, 2015, 7040

CHF 17'500





1012



Sicily, Acragas. Tetradrachm circa 460-450/446 BC, AR 17.34 g.

- 1012 **Description** AKRAC – ΑΙΤΟΣ Eagle standing l. with closed wings. Rev. Crab; beneath, floral ornament.
- References** Rizzo pl. I, 11-12
SNG ANS 983 (this obverse die)
Randazzo 15
- Condition** A very rare variety. Of superb style and with a lovely light iridescent tone, almost invisible porosity, otherwise good extremely fine
- Provenance** Nomos sale 3, 2011, 14

CHF 10'000



1013

Sicily, Catana. Tetradrachm circa 445 BC, AR 17.05 g.

- 1013 **Description** Slow quadriga driven r. by charioteer, holding *kentron* and reins. Rev. KATAN – AION Laureate head of Apollo r.
- References** Rizzo pl. X, 2-4 (this obverse die)
SNG München 427 (these dies)
AMB 325
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest specimens known. A magnificent portrait, possibly the most accomplished profile head of Apollo for Catana, without the usual traces of overstriking on the cheekbone. Wonderful old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 71, 1997, 50
NAC sale 72, 2013, 302
The collection of the Money Museum, Zürich

CHF 60'000

The town of Catana was first settled in circa 726 B.C. by settlers from nearby Naxos, itself a colony of Chalkidians from Euboea. Located on the fertile plains of the slopes of Mount Aetna in eastern Sicily along the coast and adjacent to the now dry river Amenanos, it occasionally suffered from its near proximity to the volcano, experiencing many devastating earthquakes as well as destruction from lava flows throughout its long history. During the first quarter of the fifth century B.C., Catana was conquered by Hieron I of Syracuse, who expelled its inhabitants and removed them to Leontini. He settled the town with 5000 Syracusans and 5000 Peloponnesians, and changed its name to Aetna. During the time of this short-lived Syracusan colony, the town's mint struck a magnificent tetradrachm of which only a single specimen survives, the obverse showing the head of Silenos and a scarab beetle, and on the reverse the figure of Zeus seated right, holding a thunderbolt and sitting before a fir tree atop of which is perched an eagle. Shortly thereafter, the Syracusan and Peloponnesian settlers were ousted by the town's former inhabitants, and the original name was restored. With the town's re-founding as Catana, a new series of tetradrachms was struck, ones depicting the river-god Amenanos on the obverse and Nike on the reverse. These were soon replaced by tetradrachms of the type offered here, which is more on the Syracusan model with the obverse depicting a horse-drawn chariot. Unlike at Syracuse, however, the obverse omits Nike, who normally crowns either the charioteer or the horses, the field being left vacant. The reverse shows the head of Apollo similar to that employed on coins of Leontini, and combines a high degree of formalisation with a new sense of freedom and vitality which is such an endearing feature of early classical coinage. On this coin, the portrait of Apollo is particularly exceptional: the hair is composed of precisely incised lines conforming almost exactly to the shape of the head, and there is a particular expressiveness shown in the eyes and mouth.



1014



Sicily, Catana. Tetradrachm signed by Herakleidas circa 405-402 BC, AR 17.18 g.

- 1014 **Description** Laureate head of Apollo, facing three-quarters l., his hair falling in loose curls around the face; in r. field, ΗΕΡΑΚΛΕΙΔΑΣ. Rev. Fast quadriga driven r. by charioteer holding reins with both hands, about to turn around Ionic column; in field above, Nike alighting from flight, holding wreath to crown the charioteer. In exergue, ΚΑΤΑΝΑΙΩΝ / crayfish r.
- References** Jameson 547 (this coin)
Gulbenkian 192 (this obverse die) and 193 (this reverse die)
Rizzo pl. XIV, 11 (this obverse die) and 13 (this reverse die)
SNG ANS 1257 (these dies)
AMB 338 (this obverse die)
- Condition** Very rare. A very appealing specimen of this important and artistically well-accomplished issue, work a celebrated master-engraver. Wonderful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Rollin & Feuardent sale 22 March 1886, Billoin collection, 184 (not illustrated)
Leu sale 18, 1977, 59
Leu sale 86, 2003, 269
New York Sale XX, 2009, 74
The Duruflé collection
The Arthur Evans collection
The De Guermantes collection
The Jameson collection

CHF 125'000

This tetradrachm has been engraved by Herakleidas. On the obverse, rather than on the reverse, we see the head of Apollo. Unlike the usual pattern (with the chariot on the obverse) the images have been inverted, bearing witness to Herakleidas' originality and artistic freedom. Apollo's head is portrayed facing; his thick and abundant hair, criss-crossed by the laurel leaves of his crown, is less detailed and is shown as a soft mass, cascading around his face. The outline of the face itself is heavily marked; the lips are straight and firm, the eyes deep set. No less vigorous is the chariot on the reverse; the charioteer is holding the reins in both hands, testifying to the fierce competition of the horses and lending great dynamism to the entire competition, enriched by the usual motif of Nike flying to right to crown the charioteer.



Sicily, Gela. Tetradrachm circa 415-405 BC, AR 17.20 g.

- 1015 **Description** [ΓΕΛΑΙΩΝ] Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer, holding *kentron* and reins; above, eagle flying l. In exergue, ear of barley. Rev. ΓΕΛ[ΑΣ] retrograde Forepart of man-headed bull (the river-god Gelas) r.; above, barley grain.
- References** SNG Lockett 778
SNG ANS 100 (these dies)
Jenkins 484
- Condition** Very rare. Struck on a very broad flan and complete, wonderful old cabinet tone, unobtrusive traces of overstriking, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Kricheldorf sale 23, 1971, 11
51 Gallery October Auction 2014, 13

CHF 20'000

Founded by Rhodian and Cretan colonists in circa 688 B.C. along the southern coast of Sicily in the fertile plains along the banks of the river Gela, the town of the same name soon became the most powerful city in Sicily. During its early history it was ruled by a succession of tyrants, who expanded the city's reach militarily and came to dominate many of its neighbors, including Leontini, Naxos, Zankle-Messana and Syracuse. After conquering the neighboring town of Syracuse, the tyrant Gelon moved there, and left his brother, Hieron I, in charge at Gela. After Gelon's death in 478 B.C., Hieron took control at Syracuse and left the city of Gela to Polyzeos.

The new tyrant was the first to strike tetradrachms at Gela, replacing the earlier didrachms that had been the principal denomination in use in the city. While the reverse of these new tetradrachms continues the design showing the river-god Gelas in the form of a man-headed bull, the obverse features the Charioteer of Delphi, a famous bronze statue which Polyzeos himself had dedicated to Apollo of Delphi in order to commemorate the victory of his chariot team during the Pythian Games of either 478 or 474 B.C. From the time of Polyzeos down until around the mid-fifth century, the types appearing on Gela's tetradrachms remain virtually unchanged, with only differences of style evident. However, from circa 450 B.C., the river-god takes on a more classical appearance, verging sharply from the earlier severe and archaic representation seen first on the didrachms and continued on the earliest of Gela's tetradrachms. At the very end of the fifth century, and mirroring developments elsewhere in Sicily, the coinage changes once again. Although the figure of the river-god is essentially the same as during the preceding period, changes in the charioteer are spectacular: the slow and majestic Charioteer of Delphi has been replaced by a racing quadriga, the impression of speed and excitement heightened by details such as the broken symmetry of the horses and the slightly crouching driver. Jenkins even suggests that the obverse die used to strike this coin was possibly engraved by Kimon, the famous artist working at Syracuse. This would not be out of the ordinary: many Syracusan engravers were engraving dies for other mints, some signed and some not, at precisely this time.



1016



1016

Sicily, Leontini. Tetradrachm circa 440 BC, AR 17.17 g.

- 1016 **Description** Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. ΛΕ – Ο – ΝΤ – ΙΝΟ – Ν Lion's head r., jaws open and tongue protruding.
- References** Gulbenkian 217 (these dies)
SNG ANS 228 (this obverse die)
Boehrer, Essays Price, 38 (this obverse die)
- Condition** Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Sambon-Canessa sale 27-30 June 1927, 795
Leu sale 50, 1990, 56
M&M sale 89, 2000, Sutter collection, 41
Kirk Davis sale 33, 2001, 25
Gorny & Mosch sale 232, 2015, 53

CHF 7'500



1017



Sicily, Messana. Tetradrachm circa 425-421 BC, AR 17.46 g.

- 1017 **Description** Biga of mules driven r. by bearded charioteer; in exergue, olive leaf and berry. Rev. ΜΕΣ – Σ – Α – Ν – ΙΟ – Ν Hare springing r.; below, fly r.
- References** SNG ANS 375 (these dies)
SNG Manchester 425
Caltabiano 479 (these dies)
- Condition** Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Well-struck on an exceptionally large flan and with a lovely light iridescent tone, good extremely fine
- Provenance** Gorny & Mosch sale 151, 2006, 84
Gemini sale VII, 2011, 131
Goldberg sale 69, 2012, 3021
The Dr. Patrick Tan collection

CHF 10'000



Sicily, Messana. Tetradrachm circa 412-408 BC, AR 17.19 g.

- 1018 **Description** Biga of mules driven l. by female charioteer; in exergue, two dolphins snout to snout. Rev. Hare springing l.; above, bird flying l. and beneath, ear of barley with stalk. In exergue, ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ.
- References** SNG Lockett 831 (these dies)
SNG München 600 (these dies)
Caltabiano 622
- Condition** Perfectly struck and centred on exceptionally fresh metal. Light iridescent tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc
- Provenance** Nomos sale 2, 2010, 23
Triton sale XIV, 2011, 30
Goldberg sale 69, 2012, 3022

CHF 12'000

One of the greatest cities of Sicily, Messana had a long and turbulent history. Founded during the sixth century B.C. as Zankle and named after its sickle-shaped harbor, the city enjoyed a burgeoning prosperity owing to its convenient position on the north-eastern coast of Sicily opposite the mainland town of Rhegion. Together the two cities controlled the flow of shipping through the Strait of Messina, and provided safe anchorage during unpredictable weather over the waters as well as a place to rest and replenish before venturing further afield.

The city's first coinage, in the name Zankle, was struck on the Euboic standard with a tridrachm stater weighing c. 17.2 g. The types featured on the obverse a dolphin leaping within the sickle-shaped harbor, sometimes adorned with buildings, and on the reverse a patterned die with the central device of a scallop shell. This issue was short-lived, however, and was soon replaced by an Attic standard tetradrachm of Samian types depicting a facing lion's scalp on the obverse and a prow on the reverse after the city was captured by Samian fugitives from Ionia fleeing the Persian onslaught in the wake of the Ionian Revolt. These fugitives had been invited by the local Zanklaians to join them in the colonization of Kale Akte ("Beautiful Beach"), but had been encouraged in their duplicity by Anaxilas, the tyrant of Rhegion. It was not long, however, before Anaxilas tired of the Samians and drove them out of Zankle, settling a group of ethnically mixed followers in their stead and renaming the settlement Messene in honor of his ancestral home in the Peloponnese.

With Messene under the political thumb of Anaxilas, the designs on the coinage were changed again. At first they imitated the types found at Rhegion, a facing lion's head on the obverse and a calf's head on the reverse, but these were soon replaced by types that would remain a characteristic feature of the coinage of Messene: the muleteer driving a biga on the obverse, and a bounding hare on the reverse. The depiction of the muleteer served to advertise Anaxilas's victory in either 484 or 480 B.C. at the *apane*, the mule race at the great Olympic festival, while the hare depicted on the reverse was sacred to Pan, a god revered at both Rhegion and Messana.

In 461 B.C. the city threw off the yolk of the Anaxilid tyrants, and soon took the Dorian name of Messana. With one brief interlude – an extremely rare tetradrachm issue depicting Zeus Ithomatas brandishing a thunderbolt on the obverse and a dolphin leaping over a scallop shell on the reverse, and also in the name of Zankle – the tetradrachms of Messana continued until the end of the fifth century B.C. the types of the seated muleteer and springing hare first introduced by Anaxilas. Around 425 B.C., the muleteer was replaced with the figure of the eponymous nymph Messana, shown standing and often being presented a fillet by the winged goddess of Victory, Nike, flying above.



1019

**Sicily, Naxos. Tetradrachm circa 460 BC, AR 17.25 g.**

- 1019 **Description** Bearded and ivy-wreathed head of Dionysos r., his hair tied in *krobylos* at back of neck. Rev. N – AXI – ON Silenos, nude and ithyphallic, squatting on the ground, raising a *cantharus* to his lips and supporting himself with his l. hand.
- References** K. Regling, *Die Griechischen Münzen der Sammlung Warren*, Berlin, 1906, 271 (this coin, not illustrated)
Rizzo pl. XXVIII, 12 (these dies)
SNG Lloyd 1150 (this coin)
K. Scheffold, *Meisterwerke griechischer Kunst*, Basel, 1960, 482 (this coin)
Cahn, *Naxos* 54.20 (this coin)
Kraay-Hirmer 6 (these dies)
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest specimens known of this prestigious and fascinating issue. Undoubtedly one of the finest examples of Archaic engraving in Sicily and one of the most impressive representations on a Greek coin. Struck on a very broad flan and with a wonderful old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Sambon sale 20 May 1883, Rev. J.H*** de Messine collection, 170
Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge sale 11 July 1899, Distinguished Artist (F. von Schiller) collection, 45
Leu sale 65, 1996, 87
Morton & Eden sale 23 April 2012, 201
The Warren collection
The Lloyd collection
From the collection of the British Museum, exchanged in 1948

CHF 500'000

Like most Greek cities of Sicily, Naxos had a difficult history. After being attacked early in the 5th Century by Hippocrates, tyrant of Gela, it soon fell to the Deinomenids of Syracuse. In 476 the city was destroyed by Hieron, who moved its inhabitants, along with those of Catana. He then repopulated Naxos and Catana with thousands of citizens of Corinthian and Peloponnesian origin. With the return of democracy to Syracuse in 460, the original inhabitants of Naxos and Catana were able to reclaim their homes.

Upon their return, one joint effort between Catana and Naxos was the engraving of coin dies. Both cities apparently employed the Aetna Master, who earlier appears to have been employed by the Syracusans at Catana (which they renamed Aetna during their occupation), where he is credited with having engraved dies for the unique tetradrachm of Aetna from which his name is derived.

Much like the engravers of the earlier coinage of Naxos, this artist was profoundly influenced by contemporary Attic art. The masterful head of Dionysus appears as though taken straight from Athenian Red Figure ware of the late Archaic period, perhaps from the prolific work of Douris, who painted from about 500 to 460 B.C.

Dionysus' mature, virile appearance is realised through the contrast of his smooth neck and face with the stiff, bristly texture of his hair and beard. The design exceeds the beaded border at four points, creating yet another attractive element of design. The frontal eye so strongly associated with Archaic art is now absent, but the arched eyebrow and the faint Archaic smile are retained. The proportions are naturalistic, which helps place it in the transitional era.

The reverse composition is similarly a work of genius: the virile, ithyphallic Silenus sits with his feet drawn in. He supports his weight with his straightened left arm as with his right hand he balances a two-handled cantharus (wine cup) on his shoulder. The clever foreshortening of Silenus' feet has few, if any, parallels in Greek numismatics. The god's head, with its heavy brow, pug nose, pursed lips, bestial ear and cascading mustache, is a delight to behold. Most remarkable, however, is his contemplative expression: clearly inebriated, he appears absorbed in deep thought, perhaps sizing up the qualities of the wine. This image is in keeping with Silenus' reputation for having been perpetually drunk, yet still capable of deep thought; indeed, he was considered so wise that both King Midas and Dionysus chose him as their teacher.





1020

**Sicily, Syracuse. Tetradrachm circa 510-500 BC, AR 17.24 g.**

- 1020 **Description** ΣΥΡΑΚΟ / ΣΙΩΝ Slow quadriga driven r. by charioteer, wearing long *chiton* and holding reins in each hand. Rev. Head of Arethusa l., hair curving back from forehead with dotted parallel lines and falling over neck, positioned in a circle sunk at the centre of a swastika developed from the quartering of an incuse square.
- References** McClean 2593 (this obverse die)
Gillet 524 (this coin)
SNG München 918 (this obverse die)
SNG ANS 2 (this obverse die)
Boehringer 10
- Condition** Perfectly struck and centred on a very large flan and with a superb old cabinet tone. About extremely fine / extremely fine
- Provenance** M&M sale 64, 1984, 34
Triton sale II, 1998, 217
Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 378
The Charles Gillet collection
The Orme Lewis Sr. collection
The Phoenix Art Museum collection
The collection of the Money Museum Zürich

CHF 35'000

Sicilian coinage first began in the final decades of the sixth century, probably around 530/25 B.C. It made its first appearance at four mints: the Chalcidian colonies of Zancle (later named Messina), Himera, and Naxos, and also at the city of Selinus, a colony of Megara Hyblaea. Despite the common Chalcidian heritage of three of these cities, the coinage of each was strikingly different from the others: the standards in use at Zancle, Himera, and Naxos were based on a third of the Chalcidian stater, while the Selinunte didrachm was of Attic-Euboic weight; the reverses of both Himera and Selinus employed incuse squares divided into alternately raised and sunken triangles, while Zancle used a schematised pattern with a cockle shell in the centre and Naxos used a two-type design. Thus when Syracuse followed its Sicilian neighbours and began striking its own coinage c. 510 B.C., it is not surprising that they chose to follow no one, decidedly taking their own unique path.

The first coins minted at Syracuse were tetradrachms, struck on the Attic standard of approximately 17.20 g. The obverse type was of purely Syracusan origin, and depicted a male charioteer driving a quadriga with the city ethnic above. The style is severe with sharp relief planes and recall the style from certain early Macedonian mints (indeed, as a rule, hoards of Sicilian coins are not found outside Sicily, yet hoards containing coins from Acanthus in Macedon have been found at Syracuse). This was the period before the tyrants, a time when Syracuse was ruled by an oligarchy of wealthy citizens. These ruling aristocrats would have enjoyed equestrian pursuits, especially the great chariot contests at Delphi and Olympia, and it is therefore thought that the chariot design reflects these interests. The reverse of the very first tetradrachm issue is a simple four-part incuse square design, the sections divided by thin crossing lines, and was copied from the same Acanthian (and perhaps other Macedonian) tetradrachms that served as inspiration for the obverse. Soon after this very rare first issue, the reverse was modified to include a small central medallion containing the head of Arethusa, a local fountain goddess, facing to the left, her strong and logical archaic features of characteristically Dorian style. The superimposition of a medallion on the reverse had already occurred at Athens, the coins of which apparently served as inspiration for this design element appearing at Syracuse.

Throughout the fifth century, Syracuse continued to prosper and the city soon came to predominate over the regional affairs of Sicily. The unique chariot type and the tetradrachm denomination of Attic standard first adopted at Syracuse would, in time, become the principal type and denomination throughout the whole of the island, and was even widely copied by the Carthaginians at their Punic mints during the fourth century B.C.





Sicily, Syracuse. Tetradrachm circa 485-483 BC, AR 16.97 g.

- 1021 **Description** Slow quadriga driven r. by charioteer holding reins and *kentron*; above, Nike flying r. to crown the horses. Rev. ΣΥΡΑ – ΚΟΣΙ – Ο – Ν Head of Arethusa r., hair bound with beaded fillet and wearing earring and necklace; around, four dolphins swimming clockwise.
- References** Jameson 742 (this obverse die)
Rizzo pl. XXXIV, 10 (this obverse die)
McClellan 2601 (this obverse die)
Gillet 531 (this coin)
D. Knoepfler, "La chronologie du monnayage de Syracuse sous les Deinoméniades" in SNR 71 (1992), pl. II, 13 (this coin)
Boehringer 45
- Condition** Struck on a very broad flan and with a superb old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Ars Classica sale XVI, 1933, 651
Sotheby's NY, 21 June 1990, Nelson Bunker Hunt collection part II, 246
Leu sale 81, 2001, 101
Leu sale 102, 2008, 78
Hess-Divo sale 329, 2015, 24
The Charles Gillet collection
The Dr. Patrick Tan collection

CHF 7'000



Sicily, Syracuse. Tetradrachm circa 430-420 BC, AR 17.69 g.

- 1022 **Description** Slow quadriga driven r. by charioteer, holding reins and *kentron*; above, Nike flying r. to crown horse. Rev. ΣΥΡΑ – ΚΟΣΙΩΝ Head of Arethusa r., wearing earring and necklace, hair waved over forehead and the rest enclosed in *saccos* bound with broad diadem. Around, four dolphins.
- References** Rizzo pl. XXXVIII, 17 (these dies)
Boehrer 635 (these dies)
AMB 447 (this coin)
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest specimens known of this desirable issue of superb style. An exceptionally detailed and well-accomplished portrait of Arethusa, light iridescent tone and about extremely fine / extremely fine
- Provenance** NAC sale 13, 1998, formerly exhibited at the Antike Museum Basel un Sammlung Ludwig, 447
NAC sale 72, 2013, 326
The A.D.M. collection
The collection of the Money Museum Zürich

CHF 35'000

The portrait of Arethusa presented on the lovely tetradrachm offered here is a far cry from the earlier stiff-featured depictions of the demi-goddess from the earlier fifth century coinage of Syracuse. Here her hair is held in place with a cloth *saccos*, bound tight with a broad band, and intricately decorative stitching can be seen along the front edge and at the back. A loose fold descends from the far side, hanging at the back of the neck. Despite the enclosing headpiece, tufts of hair fall from the side in waves, which are pulled back and tucked behind her ear. Arethusa wears the heavy necklace and earring she always wears, except here the earring is not in pendant form but rather a loop. The portrait is enhanced by the goddess's eye, which is well crafted and realistic, with the iris and pupil being clear and the eyelashes distinct.



1023

Sicily, Syracuse. Tetradrachm circa 405-400 BC, AR 17.24 g.

- 1023 **Description** Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer holding reins in both hands and *kentron* in l.; in field above, Nike flying r. to crown him. Beneath the hooves of the first horse, a detached chariot wheel and farther to l., loose bridle. Rev. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙ[Ω – Ν] Large head of Arethusa l., wearing double-hook earring and necklace with four pearl-shaped pendants; hair bound by *ampyx* in front and *sphendone* ornamented with stars at back, the lower border of which bears a zig-zag pattern. Around, two pairs of dolphins swimming downwards.
- References** Rizzo pl. XLVII, 17 (this obverse die)
 Boston 415 (these dies)
 Gulbenkian 288 (these dies)
 AMB 471 (this coin)
 Tudeer 69
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest specimens known of this superb issue. A portrait of enchanting beauty, work of a very talented master engraver struck on a very broad flan. A delicate old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** NAC sale 13, 1998, formerly exhibited at the Antike Museum Basel Sammlung Ludwig, 471
 Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 385
 The A.D.M. collection
 The collection of the Money Museum Zürich

CHF 50'000

This superb tetradrachm of Syracuse offers us a reverse absolutely sublime, surely the work of a master-engraver who, even if he did not sign his works, he was in no way inferior to those who were wont to put their signatures on their dies. We believe that to him should be ascribed some of the best made Arethusa heads, and namely Tudeer nos. 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 52. Among these, in our opinion the masterpieces are nos. 42, 43 and 47 that, for their enchanting beauty, stand out from the others and represent the highest achievement in the coinage of classical time.

The obverse equally that demands our attention, for is perhaps the most daring and inventive of all chariot scenes produced at Syracuse. Only about a decade before these dies were cut, the chariot scene on Syracusan tetradrachms had evolved from a somber, canonical depiction inspired by an Attic vase painting into an explosive scene in which the horses were shown in high action. With this innovation it was shown at a slight angle so the artist could dwell on the physiognomies of the horses and could show the chariot with a new perspective. The style of the chariot scene in the century prior to these the innovations was formulaic: though the position of the Nike varied, the chariot was shown in profile, with only the slight overlapping of the horses and the separation of their heads to indicate that more than one was present. Very few dies from that initial century diverged even slightly from the standard formula (see Boehringer dies V45, V107, V286, V291, V326), with the work of a single artist in about 440 B.C. (Boehringer dies Boeh. V295 and V296) being noteworthy, if not especially accomplished. Once we enter this dynamic period of about 415 to 385 B.C. some extraordinarily talented artists energized Syracusan coins with a level of innovation that had never before been seen. Not surprisingly, several of these artists signed their dies and produced works that were influential far beyond the shores of Sicily. Leading the way was Euainetos, who seems to have been the first to express complete freedom in the way he depicted the chariot at an angle, as if was turning the bend (Tudeer die 10). This particular die, Tudeer die 25, takes Euainetos' inventiveness to a new level by adding unexpected elements to the scene. Here we have a snapshot of a calamity: one of the reins has been pulled from the driver's hand and the horses trample upon a wheel that has broken away from a competing chariot. The fact that our charioteer is being crowned by Nike is all the confirmation we need that he and his team emerged victorious at the expense of a competitor whose chariot had overturned in close proximity.





1024

Sicily, Syracuse. Decadrachm signed by Kimon circa 404-400 BC, AR 43.21 g.

- 1024 **Description** Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer, holding reins and *kentron*; in field above, Nike flying r. to crown him. In exergue, display of military harness set on two steps and below l., AΘΛΑ. Rev. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ Head of Arethusa l., wearing earring with pendant and beaded necklace; her hair bound in a net behind and with a hair band inscribed KI over her forehead. Around, three dolphins, while a fourth makes dorsal contact with neck truncation.
- References** De Nanteuil 357 (this coin)
SNG Lloyd 1410 (these dies)
Jongkees 71 (this coin)
McClellan 2733 (these dies)
- Condition** Rare and in unusually fine condition for the issue. A spectacular portrait, work of the most celebrated Sicilian master engravers struck in high relief on excellent metal. A wonderful old cabinet tone, almost invisible traces of over-striking, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Florange & Ciani sale, 17/21 February 1925, 357
Nomos sale 10, 2015, 12
The Robert O. Ebert collection
The Henry de Nanteuil de la Norville collection
The Spina collection
From the Noto (Falconera) Hoard of 1908 (IGCH 2103)

CHF 200'000

Scholars have long attempted to ascribe Kimon's decadrachms to an historical event as they seem in every way to be commemorative medallions. The Syracusan defeat of the Athenian navy in 413 at first seems an ideal choice, though current thought on the dating of this issue favors the victorious actions of Syracuse in the otherwise devastating invasion of Sicily by the Carthaginians from 406 to 405 B.C.

The most compelling reason to associate the Kimonian decadrachms with a military victory is the display of armour and weaponry that appears in the exergue along with the inscription AΘΛΑ, which indicates 'prizes', or at least 'agonistic contests'. Since it was a common practice of Greek soldiers to engrave dedicatory inscriptions on captured armour, a connection might be drawn between that practice and what we observe here.

The obverse scene of a charioteer guiding his team through a bend is devoted entirely to victory. Despite their inherent dissimilarities, the four elements of the scene exist in harmony: the driver is calm and composed, the horses toss their heads wildly as they charge forward, Nike floats above as if undisturbed by the great contest below, and the display of arms and armour is fixed, as if monumental.

If possible, the head of Artemis-Arethusa on the reverse is even more impressive. This die is especially important, as it is signed twice by Kimon: his initial K on the ampyx near her forehead and his full name KIMΩΝ on the body of the dolphin below her neck. Considering his signature also occurs in miniature letters on the exergue line on the obverse, we have a coin that the artist must have considered to be among his best creations.





1025



Sicily, Syracuse. Decadrachm signed by Euainetos circa 400 BC, AR 43.27 g.

- 1025 **Description** Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer, holding reins and *kentron*; in field above, Nike flying r. to crown him. In exergue, display of military harness set on two steps and below l., [AΘAA]. Rev. ΣΥ – ΠΑ – Κ – Ο – ΣΙΩΝ Head of Arethusa (Kore-Persephone) l., wearing barley-wreath, triple pendant earring and beaded necklace. Around three dolphins, while a fourth makes dorsal contact with neck truncation; beneath, EY – ΑΙΝΕ.
- References** De Luynes 1249 (these dies)
Boston 423 (this obverse die)
SNG Copenhagen 690 (these dies)
Gallatin C.XIV/R.VII.11 (this coin)
- Condition** Rare and a superb specimen of this desirable and important issue. A portrait of fine style struck on a very broad flan and with an attractive old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Hirsch sale XXXII, 1912, Virzi collection, 322
Chaponnière & Hess-Divo sale 3, 2012, 66
Künker sale 270, 2015, 8135

CHF 60'000

Coins of the artist Euainetos are among the most exquisite works of art from the ancient Greek world. Of special value are his decadrachms, which must have been distributed widely, for they were influential to artists in regions far removed from the shores of Sicily. It is unlikely that many were exported through the normal channels of commerce, and we might suggest that, much like the staters of Olympia, some were acquired as keepsakes and were carried to a variety of destinations. The decadrachms of Kimon and Euainetos were introduced early in the reign of the tyrant Dionysius I (405-367 B.C.), and those of Euainetos continued to be struck for decades, perhaps even beyond the 360s. We might presume that Dionysius took a personal interest in producing such large coins of fine style to evince his patronage of the arts and to promote the success of his rule. There is also good reason to believe that after Euainetos' initial contributions, die cutting for the series eventually was carried out by understudies and successors. In some cases Euainetos' signature appears to have been retained as a fixed element of the design until about midway through, when it was lost altogether. In general, these understudies meticulously copied the work of the master engraver. Gallatin notes that the entire series g...shows a most amazing repetition of the details of the arrangement of the hair, locks and curls being slavishly repeated. h Though a precise context has not been convincingly established for the Syracusan decadrachms of Kimon and Euainetos, it is tempting to associate their introduction with a military victory. The display of armour and weaponry that appears in the exergue is militant, and the inscription Αϑ/Α, which indicates prizes, f or at least eagonistic contests, f only adds to that prospect. Since it was a common practice of Greek soldiers to engrave dedicatory inscriptions on captured armour, a connection might be drawn between that phenomenon and what is presented on the decadrachms. The obverse also appears to allude to victory with its vivid scene of a charioteer guiding his team through a bend.





1026

Sicily, Syracuse. Decadrachm, unsigned work by Euainetos, circa 400 BC, AR 43.33 g.

- 1026 **Description** Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer, holding reins and *kentron*; in field above, Nike flying r. to crown him. In exergue, display of military harness set on two steps and below l., [AΘΛA]. Rev. ΣΥ – Π – Α – Κ – ΟΣΙΩΝ Head of Arethusa (Kore-Persephone) l., wearing barley-wreath, triple pendant earring and beaded necklace; around three dolphins, while a fourth makes dorsal contact with neck truncation. Below chin, pellet.
- References** Rizzo pl. LIII, 18 (these dies)
SNG Lloyd 472 (this obverse die)
Dewing 923 (this obverse die)
Gallatin J.V/R.XXII, 4 (this coin)
- Condition** A spectacular specimen of this prestigious and important issue. A wonderful portrait struck in high relief on exceptionally fresh metal. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Rollin & Feuarent sale 10 May 1910, Duruflé collection, 214
Leu sale 54, 1992, 42
Gemini sale IX, 2012, 5
Roma Numismatics sale 5, 2013, 132
The Ed Milas collection.

CHF 100'000

Both his contemporaries and successors regarded Euainetos as the ultimate master. No work of ancient coinage has been copied over a longer period or more frequently than his signed Syracusan decadrachm. Most Siculo-punic issues replicate the chariot and team, as well as the head on the obverse. The female head in particular must have made an unusually deep impression on the ancients, appearing not only on gold and electrum Carthaginian issues, but also on many 4th and 3rd century B.C. coins from sites as geographically disparate as Spain and Crete. In the 3rd century B.C., the head even served as the model for the tondo on varnished Greek bowls. From copyists' embellishments of corn-ears and stalks, we can only assume that they interpreted Euainetos' female head as an effigy of Kore-Persephone. Most researchers have nonetheless interpreted the work as representing Arethusa, in which case the corn ears are out of place, although reeds of similar appearance would have fitted in very well. Such long-lasting impact and exceptional ubiquity is nevertheless understandable only in the context of a much-revered goddess, certainly not a local nymph.





Sicily, Syracuse. 25 litrae circa 310-305 BC, EL 3.55 g.

- 1027 **Description** Laureate head l.; behind, eight-pointed star. Rev. ΣΥΡΑΚ – ΟΣΙΩΝ Tripod.
References SNG ANS 623
 Jenkins, Essays Robinson 156, 07 / R7
Condition In exceptional condition for the issue. Good extremely fine
Provenance Jacob Hirsch sale 34, 1914, Garucci collection, 208
 Maison Palombo sale 12, 2013, 12

CHF 5'000



Sicily, Syracuse. Tetradrachm circa 310-305 BC, AR 16.90 g.

- 1028 **Description** Head of Persephone l., wearing barley wreath, triple-pendant earring and necklace; beneath neck truncation, NI. Around, three dolphins. Rev. Fast quadriga driven l. by charioteer, holding reins in l. hand and *kentron* in outstretched r.; above, *triskeles* l. In exergue, ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ / ΑΙ ligate.
References SNG ANS 638 (these dies)
 Ierardi 33
Condition Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine
Provenance Tradart sale 18 December 2014, 52
 The Albert Hofer collection

CHF 6'000



Sicily, Syracuse. 15 litrae or Tridrachm 287-278 BC under Hiketas II, AR 12.65 g.

- 1029 **Description** Head of Persephone I., wearing wreath of grain ears, single-pendant earring, and necklace; bee to right. Rev. Fast quadriga driven l. by Nike, holding *kentron* in extended r. hand and reins in l.; star of eight rays above. In exergue, [Σ]ΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
- References** Jameson 872 (this coin)
SNG Lockett 1008 (these dies)
Gulbenkian 346-7 (these dies)
SNG ANS 754
- Condition** Very rare. An interesting issue struck on a broad flan and with an enchanting old cabinet tone. Good very fine / about extremely fine
- Provenance** Hirsch sale XV, 1909, Philipsen collection, 1252
Triton sale II, 1998, 271
CNG e-Auction 271, 2012, Property of Princeton Economics acquired by Martin Armstrong, 12
CNG sale 93, 2013, 80
The Jameson collection
The ADM collection

CHF 12'500

Although lacking his name, this very rare 15-litrae piece, or tridrachm, dates from the time when Hiketas II ruled Syracuse as tyrant (287-278 B.C.). The types depict the head of Kore (Persephone) on the obverse and Nike driving a galloping quadriga on the reverse, which copy respectively the second and first tetradrachm issues of Hiketas' predecessor, Agathokles. Little is known of Hiketas' nine-year rule at Syracuse: Diodoros records that he waged war against the tyrant of Akragas, Phintias, over whom he won a considerable victory, and that he also fought against the Carthaginians, who defeated him at the river Terias. He was expelled from Syracuse by Thynion shortly before Pyrrhos arrived in Sicily (Diod. *Exc. Hoesch.* XXI.12, 13; XXII.2, 6).



Sicily, Syracuse. Decadrachm 217-214 BC, AV 4.28 g.

- 1030 **Description** Head of Persephone I., wearing barley wreath; behind, wreath. Rev. Fast biga driven l. by charioteer holding *kentron* and reins; beneath the horses, A and below, IEPΩNΩC.
- References** SNG Stockholm 605 (these dies, Δ)
Carroccio 20
- Condition** Extremely fine
- Provenance** Stack's Bowers and Ponterio sale 140, 2012, 20390

CHF 3'000



Sicily, Syracuse. 10 litrae, 215-214 BC under Hieronymus, AR 8.51 g.

- 1031 **Description** Diademed head l. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩC / ΑΦ Winged thunderbolt ΗΙΕΡΩΝΥΜΟΥ.
- References** Winterthur 1007 (these dies)
SNG ANS 1027 (this obverse die)
Holloway AMUGS III, p. 11, 26
- Condition** Struck on a very broad flan and with a superb old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** New York Sale I, 1998, 68
Hess-Divo sale 320, 2011, 52
Roma Numismatics sale 4, 2012, 103
Heritage 3037, 2015, California collection, 30281

CHF 4'000



Sicily, Syracuse. 16 litrae 214-212 BC, AR 13.58 g.

- 1032 **Description** Laureate head of Zeus l. Rev. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ Fast quadriga driven r. by Nike holding reins in both hands and *kentron* in l. ; below horses' forelegs, ΕΙ.
- References** Gulbenkian 358 (these dies)
Kraay-Hirmer 145
Burnett, SNR 62, pl. 8, D3
- Condition** Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. A spectacular portrait of the finest Hellenistic style perfectly struck on a full flan. Wonderful old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** NFA sale XII, 1983, 30
Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 72, 2013, 4033
The Hunter collection

CHF 35'000

When Hieron II died in 215 B.C., he left his kingdom to his fifteen-year-old grandson, Hieronymos. Knowing that Hieronymos' character was essentially debauched, Hieron made provisions for a council of fifteen guardians to supervise the young king and act as his regents, providing guidance until Hieronymos was of an age and maturity to rule in his own stead. One of the counselors who also happened to be the son-in-law of Hieron, Adranodoros, however, desired power for himself. Adranodoros connived to have the other guardians dismissed, thereupon becoming the young king's chief counselor, and in the wake of the Roman disaster at Cannae, he convinced Hieronymos to change Syracuse's allegiance from Rome to that of Carthage. This brought Rome and Syracuse into direct conflict, and in 214 B.C. the Romans under Marcus Claudius Marcellus began besieging the city. Hieronymos was assassinated after a reign of only thirteen months, and a republican government known as the Fifth Democracy was restored. The city failed to change its Carthaginian allegiance, however, and despite a protracted siege of two years in which the Romans had to contend with uprisings throughout Sicily as well as the mechanical defenses of the great Archimedes, the city finally fell in 212 B.C.

Despite the political turmoil at Syracuse during the Roman siege after Hieronymos' elimination, the mint managed to issue a remarkable series of coinage, the dies of which were engraved by some very talented artists. The largest and rarest denomination was this most impressive 16-litrae piece showing an exceptionally handsome portrait of Zeus that exhibits a rare grace and vitality for the period, and which has artistic parallels with the contemporary Carthaginian-allied Brettian League issues produced probably at Lokroi. The reverse depicting the goddess Nike driving a galloping four-horse chariot is rendered expressively, and alludes to the forlorn desire that Syracuse could yet withstand the might of the Romans.



1033

The Carthaginians in North Africa. Stater, Carthago circa 350-320 BC, AV 9.25 g.

- 1033 **Description** Head of Tanit I., wearing barley wreath, triple-pendant earrings and necklace. Rev. Horse standing r., in lower r. field, three dots set in triangular form.
- References** Jenkins-Lewis group IIIh
SNG Copenhagen 974
McClellan 9979
Weber 8489
- Condition** In an exceptional state of preservation. An almost invisible edge mark, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc
- Provenance** Lanz sale 36, 1986, 516
Bru & Wellico Ltd sale 1, 2012, 8

CHF 10'000



1034

The Carthaginians in Sicily. Tetradrachm, "mint of the Camp" circa 320, AR 16.98 g.

- 1034 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone l., wearing barley wreath, bar and triple pendant earring and dotted necklace; around, four dolphins. Rev. Head of horse l.; behind, palm tree. Below neck truncation, 'mmhnt' in Punic characters.
- References** de Luynes 1458 (this obverse die)
SNG Lloyd 1631 (this obverse die)
Jenkins SNR 56, 1977, p. 47, O 47 / R –
- Condition** Of fine style, lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Sotheby's sale 7 March 1996, 65
NAC sale 72, 2013, 337

CHF 8'000



1035

The Carthaginians in Sicily. Tetradrachm "mint of the Camp" circa 320-300 BC, AR 17.06 g.

- 1035 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone l., wearing barley wreath, earring and necklace, below the chin, cockle shell; around, four dolphins. Rev. Horse's head l.; behind, palm tree with date clusters. Below neck truncation, 'mmhnt' in Punic characters.
- References** SNG Fitzwilliam 1488 (these dies)
SNG Copenhagen 85 (these dies)
Jenkins SNR 56, 1977, 163
- Condition** Wonderful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** 51 Galleries October Auction 2014, 16
The Michel Eddé Collection

CHF 7'500



1036



The Carthaginians in Sicily. Tetradrachm, "mint of the Camp" circa 320-300 BC, AR 16.92 g.

- 1036 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone I., wearing barley wreath, bar and triple pendant earring and dotted necklace; below chin, cockle shell and around, four dolphins. Rev. Horse's head l.; behind, palm tree with date clusters. Below neck truncation, 'mmhnt' in Punic characters.
- References** SNG Fitzwilliam 1488 (these dies)
SNG Copenhagen 85 (these dies)
Jenkins SNR 56, 1977, 163
- Condition** A portrait of the finest style struck on exceptionally fresh metal and with a wonderful old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Privately purchased from Ratto in 1945
Gorny & Mosch sale 228, 2015, 44

CHF 12'500



The Carthaginians in Sicily. Tetradrachm, "mint of the Camp" circa 320-300 BC, AR 17.09 g.

- 1037 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone I., wearing barley wreath, bar and triple pendant earring and dotted necklace; around, four dolphins. Rev. Horse's head l.; behind, palm tree with date clusters. Below neck truncation, 'mmhnt' in Punic characters.
- References** SNG Fitzwilliam 1493 (these dies)
SNG Lloyd 1638 (these dies)
Jenkins SNR 56, 1977, 188
- Condition** Wonderful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Auctiones sale 17, 1988, 100

CHF 5'000



The Carthaginians in Sicily. Tetradrachm, "mint of the Camp" circa 320-300, AR 16.97 g.

- 1038 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone I., wearing barley wreath, bar and triple pendant earring, and dotted necklace; below chin, cockle-shell and around, four dolphins. Rev. Horse's head l.; behind, palm tree with date clusters. Below neck truncation, 'mmhnt' in Punic characters.
- References** SNG Fitzwilliam 1493 (this obverse die)
SNG Lloyd 1638 (this obverse die)
Jenkins SNR 56, 1977, 189 (this coin illustrated)
- Condition** Old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Florange-Ciani sale 1925, 414
Hess-Leu sale 31, 1966, 178
Leu sale 59, 1994, 79
Heritage sale 3042, 2015, 29026

CHF 5'000



1039

The Carthaginians in Sicily. Tetradrachm, uncertain mint in Sicily circa 320-300, AR 17.40 g.

- 1039 **Description** Female head l. (Tanit ?), wearing a necklace and a Phrygian tiara encircled with a band decorated with palmettes. Rev. Lion advancing l., head facing; behind, palm tree with cluster of dates. In exergue, 's'mmhnt' (people of the Camp) in Punic characters.
- References** Rizzo pl. LXVI, 7 (these dies)
Kraay-Hirmer pl. 72, 207 (these dies)
Jenkins SNR 56, 1977, 271
- Condition** Extremely rare and possibly the finest specimen known of this magnificent issue, possibly the most desirable of the entire Siculo-Punic series. A spectacular portrait work of a very skilled master engraver perfectly struck and centred on in high relief on a very large flan. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Künker sale 262, 2015, 7079

CHF 150'000

This extraordinary tetradrachm seems to have been struck late in the 4th Century B.C., perhaps between 320 and 310, and very likely in the early part of that range. It belongs to a series containing just three sets of dies, each of which presents this interesting subject matter in a different way. Though each is spectacular and original in its own right, if one set of dies had to be chosen as the most accomplished, it certainly would be the one used to strike this coin. In his die study of the Siculo-Punic series, Jenkins was hard-pressed to find a place for this group among the other series of tetradrachms. Even if the superior style of engraving and the unusual subject matter were not obvious considerations, the fact that only three sets of dies were used and that they do not link with other issues (or even within themselves) demonstrates it was a special and isolated series. Aspects of the engraving style led Jenkins to conclude that they belonged at the end of his series 2d (head of Kore/horse animated before palm tree) or the beginning of his series 3 (dolphins around the head of Arethusa/horse head and palm tree). If linked with Jenkins' series 3, this coinage might be associated with preparations by the Carthaginian leader Hamilcar (son of Gison) to combat Agathocles; as such, Jenkins suggests they may have been minted for the 2,000 elite citizens who headed the new Carthaginian armada. A convincing interpretation of the designs has thus far been impossible to achieve. The head was traditionally described as Dido (Elissa), the legendary foundress of Carthage, but that identification has not found much support in recent decades. She may also be the personification of Libya, for that would match well with the prowling lion on the reverse. Jenkins objects to that idea, however, noting that celebrating an indigenous people subject to Carthaginian rule would not have been "consistent with Carthaginian nationalism". To the contrary, Robinson suggests Libya would have been an ideal subject if the bulk of the Carthaginian army at this time were comprised of mercenaries from Carthaginian Libya. Another possibility is that the Punic goddess Tanit (being in some ways the equivalent of the Greek goddess Artemis) is represented, and in many respects she seems to be the best choice.





The Carthaginians in North Africa. Shekel, Carthago circa 280-260 BC, AR 7.64 g.

- 1040 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone I., wearing barley wreath, pendant earring and necklace. Rev. Horse standing r., head turned back; in r. field, eight-rayed star and palm tree in the background.
- References** SNG Copenhagen 141
Jenkins – Lewis pl. 26, 16
- Condition** Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Struck on fresh metal and with a wonderful old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Sternberg sale XI, 1981, 65
Maison Palombo sale 13, 2014, 42

CHF 6'000



The Carthaginians in North Africa. Trihemistater, Carthago circa 260 BC, AV 12.39 g.

- 1041 **Description** Head of Tanit-Persephone I., wearing barley wreath, bar and triple pendant earring and necklace with pendants. Rev. Horse standing r., head turned back.
- References** Gulbenkian 384
Jenkins-Lewis group IX, 377 ff.
- Condition** Perfectly struck and centred on a full flan. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Morton & Eden sale 51, 2011, 68
Privately purchased from Spink & Son on 6 June 1967

CHF 25'000



1042



Macedonia, Acanthus. Tetradrachm circa 470-430 BC, AR 16.92 g.

- 1042 *Description* Lion r., attacking bull kneeling to l. and biting into his hind quarters; above, floral ornament. In exergue, stylised acanthus flower. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square.
- References* Desneux type G, cf. 48-68
SNG ANS cf. 10
- Condition* An apparently unrecorded variety of a very rare type. Perfectly struck and centred in high relief on a very large flan. Old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance* Goldberg sale 72, 2013, Hunter, 4039
Heritage sale 3037, 2015, California collection, 30891

CHF 30'000

Along with Mende, the city of Akanthos was one of the two principal mints of the Chalcidice, the three-pronged peninsula occupying the eastern half of Macedonia and bordering on Thrace. The city first struck silver coinage in the last quarter of the sixth century B.C., which was probably used for trade and perhaps also for tribute payment to the Persians who occupied much of the northern Aegean littoral during this period. Tetradrachms of Akanthos, along with coins from several neighboring mints such as Mende, Abdera, and various Thraco-Macedonian tribes, are often found in hoards in the Near East and Egypt, attesting to the fact that they served as a means for exporting Akanthos' rich reserves of silver bullion. The output of the mint appears to have been enormous, yet the paucity of noted die-linkage today suggests that the bulk of the coinage was melted in antiquity. Unlike its neighbours, no denominations larger than the tetradrachm were struck at Akanthos.

The scene of the lion attacking the bull used at Akanthos shows the strong influence of Persian motifs that were being adapted in archaic Greek art. This orientalizing influence often presents puzzling yet powerful scenes combining a curious mixture of the real along with the abstract. Here, however, the engraver represents his subject with a high degree of clarity, with both the lion and bull having realistic features. Perhaps the sight was not unfamiliar to Akanthos' citizens: unlike today, in antiquity lions abounded in the region, and cows were a staple of the region's pastoral lifestyle. The reverse design of a simple square punch divided into quarters is neat and well defined, and foreshadows the adoption of proper reverse designs which were gradually taking place during this period.



1043



- Macedonia, Mende. Tetradrachm circa 450-425 BC, AR 17.86 g.**
- 1043 **Description** Elderly Dionysus, wearing ivy wreath and *himation*, reclining on mule's back l., holding *cantharus* with r. hand and resting l. on the animal's side; in exergue, grasshopper with distended abdomen. Rev. MEN – ΔA – IO – N around linear square containing vine with four bunches of grapes; all within incuse square.
- References** SNG Berry 36 (this reverse die)
SNG ANS 348 (this obverse die) and 347 (this reverse die)
Gulbenkian 415 (these dies)
Dewing 1055 (this reverse die)
Noe Mende 90
- Condition** Rare. Well-centred and with a magnificent old cabinet tone, extremely fine and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 7, 1973, 126
Sotheby's 19-20 June 1991, Nelson Bunker Hunt collection part IV, 198
Stack's sale 9 December 1991, 125
Stack's sale 3 December 1996, Michael F Price collection, 36 sales

CHF 25'000

Mende excelled in the wine trade, rivalling Thasos, Maronea, Naxos, Lesbos and Chios. The ancient authorities Cratippus, Athenaeus, Menander, Hermippus of Smyrna and Demosthenes all speak of the quality and fame of Mende wine. Thus, it is not surprising that on its principal trade coin, the tetradrachm, Mende would choose a design that celebrated wine production. Indeed, most coins of the city bear designs that refer to wine production or to the retinue of Dionysus, the god of wine. On this example we see an elderly Dionysus in luxurious repose on the back of an ass, clutching a *cantharus* of wine. As shown here, he usually relaxes with his left arm downward, but on occasion (Mende [Kaliandra] Hoard no. 65) he assumes an even more decadent pose with his left arm propped upon the head of the ass; on other examples the god's identification is further secured by the fact that he holds a *thyrsus* (Mende (Kaliandra) Hoard nos. 60, 61, 63). Hardly a more appropriate image exists of this god, famed for his wild indulgences and his appreciation for the fruit of the vine. Of great interest is the contrast between the god and the ass: the stiff, servile attitude of the mount contrasts sharply with the decadent, reclining figure of Dionysus. While the ass is focused and dedicated to his workaday task, with its musculature taut and well defined, Dionysus appears unconcerned and soft in his physical form. In that sense we have two completely different works of art compressed into one scene. The contrast can hardly be accidental, and it must have provided the die engraver with the challenge of unifying these disparate elements into seamless coexistence.





1044

Kings of Macedonia, Alexander I, 498-454. Octodrachm circa 492-480 BC, AR 29.00 g.

- 1044 **Description** Warrior, wearing *causia* and holding two spears, standing behind horse. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square.
- References** Svoronos, *Hellénisme Primitif* pl. 12, 6 (The Bisaltae)
D. Raymond, *Macedonian Regal Coinage to 413 B.C.* in ANS NNM 126 (1953), pl. II, 6
Kraay, ACGC pl. 27, 493 (The Bisaltae)
Kent-Hirmer 385 (this obverse die)
- Condition** Rare. An impressive specimen of this interesting issue. Struck on a very broad flan and with a light tone, extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 65, 1996, 129
CNG Classical Numismatic Review XXI, 1996, 9
Hess-Divo sale 329, 2015, 50

CHF 15'000

The traditional attribution of this and similar types to the Bisaltae is by no means certain. As a matter of fact, while Svoronos, arguing from stylistic features, actually listed uninscribed octodrachms among the issues of the Bisaltae (cfr. Svoronos, *L'hellenisme primitive de la Macédoine*, Paris/Athens, 1919), Doris Raymond (*Macedonian Regal Coinage to 413 B.C.*, New York, 1953) allotted this issue among the earliest coinage of Alexander I by means of similar motifs appearing on several octodrachms of the Macedonian king. This theory would be also consistent with hoard evidence which indicates that the Bisaltae eventually did not initiate their coinage until after 475 B.C., that is after their conquest by Alexander I.



Kings of Macedonia. Philip II, 359-336 BC. Tetradrachm, Pella, circa 354-348 BC, AR 14.51 g.

- 1045 **Description** Laureate head of Zeus r. Rev. ΦΙΛΙΠ – ΠΟΥΥ Horseman galloping l., wearing *causia* and raising r. hand; below in the field, spearhead and star below horse's raised foreleg.
- References** Le Rider 103 (these dies)
SNG ANS 357
- Condition** A wonderful portrait of fine style and a lovely old cabinet tone. Struck on a narrow flan, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Hess-Divo sale 321, 2012, 90

CHF 2'500



Kings of Macedonia. Philip II, 359-336 BC, posthumous issue. 1/4 stater, Pella circa 340-328 or 336-328 BC, AV 2.15 g.

- 1046 **Description** Head of Heracles r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥΥ above, winged thunderbolt and, below, club and bow.
- References** SNG Copenhagen 535
Le Rider 51
- Condition** In exceptional condition for the issue. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Hirsch sale 59, 1968, 3
Peus sale 407, 2012, 413

CHF 2'000



1047



Kings of Macedonia. Alexander III, 336-323 BC, posthumous issue. Stater, Susa circa 320-316 BC, AV 8.62 g.

1047 *Description* Head of Athena r., wearing triple-crested Corinthian helmet; bowl decorated with coiled snake. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Nike standing l., holding wreath and *stylus*; in lower l. field, ΛΑ and in lower r. field, monogram.

References Price 3845

Müller –

Condition Light reddish tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

Provenance Gorny & Mosch sale 203, 2012, 138

CHF 3'500



1048



Kings of Macedonia. Alexander III, 336-323 BC, posthumous issue. Tetradrachm, uncertain mint in Greece or Macedonia circa 310-275 BC, AR 17.04 g.

1048 *Description* Head of Heracles r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus seated l. on throne, holding eagle and sceptre.

References Price 844

Müller –

Condition Of superb style and perfectly struck on a very broad flan. Extremely fine

Provenance Heritage CIGF Auction 3032, 2014, Dr. Patrick Tan collection, 23094

Heritage 3037, 2015, California collection, 29956

CHF 1'750



1049



Kings of Macedonia. Alexander III, 336-323 BC, posthumous issue. Tetradrachm, Caunos Cariae circa 300-280 BC, AR 17.04 g.

1049 **Description** Head of Heracles r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus seated l. on throne, holding eagle and sceptre; in l. field, *labrys*.

References SNG München 580

M. Thompson, *The Alexandrine Mint of Mylasa*, QT X (1981), 207ff. and pl. II, 20

R. H. J. Ashton, *Kaunos, not Miletos or Mylasa*, NC 2004, 42

Price 2074

Condition Of extraordinary style and with a wonderful light iridescent tone. Good extremely fine

Provenance Gorny & Mosch sale 180, 2009, 108

Hess-Divo sale 328, 2014, 31

CHF 4'000



1050



Kings of Macedonia. Alexander III, 336-323 BC, posthumous issue. Tetradrachm, Mesembria Thraciae circa 275/50-225 BC, AR 16.68 g.

1050 **Description** Head of Heracles r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Zeus seated l. on throne, holding eagle and sceptre; in inner l. field, crested Corinthian helmet and, in exergue, monogram.

References Karayotov 3

Price 985

Condition Good extremely fine

Provenance CNG sale 91, 2012, 87

CHF 1'500



1051



Kings of Macedonia. Philip II struck under Philip III Arrhidaeus, 323-317 BC. Stater, Colophon circa 322-319 BC, AV 8.61 g.

- 1051 **Description** Laureate head of Apollo r. Rev. ΦΙΛΙΠΠΙΟΥ Fast biga driven r. by charioteer holding reins and *kentron*; tripod below horses.
- References** Thompson, *Studia Naster*, Philip pl. VI, cf. 12
Le Rider pl. 90, 16 and pl. 93, 26 (for symbol)
Jameson cf. 978 (for symbol)
SNG ANS cf. 309 (for symbol)
- Condition** Struck on an irregular flan, otherwise good extremely fine
- Provenance** CNG sale 91, 2012, 139

CHF 5'000



1052



Antigonus I Monophtalmos as Strategos of Asia, 320-306/5 BC. Drachm, Sardis Lydiae circa 318-315 BC, AR 4.26 g.

- 1052 **Description** Head of Heracles r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus seated l. on throne, holding eagle and sceptre; in l. field, monogram and, below throne, Δ / monogram.
- References** Thompson, *ANSNS* 16, 403c
Price 2685 var
- Condition** Of superb style and perfectly struck on a full flan. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Triton sale XV, 2012, 1132
CNG sale 93, 2013, 163

CHF 1'500



1053

Thraco-Macedonian Tribes, The Bisaltae. Octodrachm circa 475-465 BC, AR 28.68 g.

1053 **Description** CΙΣΔ – ΛΙΚΟΥΙ Warrior, wearing *causia* and holding two spears, standing behind horse. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square.

References AMNG III/2, 4 var.
Svoronos, *Hellénisme Primitif* pl. XI, 5-6 var.
SNG Oxford 2242 var.
Topalov 33

Condition Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. An impressive coin of fine style perfectly struck and centred on a very broad flan. Good extremely fine

Provenance Triton sale XI, 2008, 100
Nomos sale 7, 2013, 33
Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 427
The Mieza collection

CHF 25'000

The Bisaltae were a Thracian or Pelasgian tribe inhabiting the reaches of the lower Strymon river valley in eastern Macedonia bordering the lands of Thrace to the east. The economy was one of pastoral-nomadism, although the aristocracy certainly exploited the silver mines in the mountainous region between them and the territory of the Krestones and Mygdones to their west, the bullion of which produced this handsome octodrachm. An interesting feature of these large coins, and also the larger issues of the Derrones as well as of Alexander I in Macedonia, is their manufacturing process. From the flattening that is always present on the reverse, it appears that the striking occurred in two distinct stages with the reverses and obverses having been struck individually. First, the reverse die, which served merely as an ornamental device rather than having the functional purpose of pushing metal into the obverse die, was hammered against the planchet, then the planchet was turned over and struck again from the obverse die. This second striking caused some flattening on the reverse of the coin, as can be seen here in the slight flattening of the raised portions of the four inner divisions of the larger incuse square. The purpose of this unusual manufacturing process is not certain, but probably should be seen in the context of the massive size of the coins themselves.

During Xerxes' invasion of Greece in 480 B.C., the Bisaltai refused assistance to the large Persian army. After they vacated the region following their costly campaign against the Greeks, Alexander I of Macedonia conquered and annexed the Bisaltaian homeland. In doing so he came to control the rich silver mines of the Pangaeon district and subsequently struck his first coinage, which copies exactly these Bisaltaian octodrachms except that they are inscribed with his own name.



1054

Thrace, Abdera. Stater circa 395-360 BC, AR 12.83 g.

- 1054 **Description** Stater circa 395-360, AR 12.83 g. ΑΒΔΕ Griffin seated l.; in l. field, cicada. Rev. ΕΠΙΦΙΛΑΔΟΣ Heracles seated half r. on lion's skin draped over a rock. He holds a club vertically in his r. hand while resting his l. elbow on l. thigh.
- References** Weber 2379
Jameson 2000 (this obverse die)
SNG Lockett 1132
May, Abdera 393
Chryssantaki-Nagle pl. 8, 6
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest specimens known. A spectacular coin of magnificent late Classical style struck in high relief on a very large flan, wonderful light iridescent tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Lanz sale 86, 1998, 74
Gorny & Mosch sale 180, 2009, 70
NAC sale 72, 2013, 354

CHF 30'000

The city of Abdera in coastal central Thrace was founded in 544 B.C. by refugees from the Ionian island of Teos fleeing the Persian conquest of Asia Minor from the Ionian island of Teos. With a ready supply of silver and the experience of a well-established preexisting coinage in their homeland, the colonists began minting their own coinage about a decade after settlement at Abdera. Although rare today, the first issues were apparently quite large and consisted of octodrachms and tetradrachms, employing the obverse type of their homeland, a seated griffin with the single difference being that the griffin is invariably shown facing to the left at Abdera whereas it was always shown to the right on the coinage of Teos. The griffin remained the civic badge of the city, appearing on Abdera's coinage right down until her conquest by Philip II of Macedonia in the 350s B.C. The reverse type soon developed from a simple incuse punch to contain various designs, often in conjunction with the name of the magistrate responsible for the issue of coinage.

The second half of the fifth century B.C. saw a flourishing of individualism and realism in art hitherto unprecedented, with artists attaining a manner of representation that conveys a vitality of life as well as a sense of permanence, clarity, and harmony. At Athens, the statesman Pericles transformed the Acropolis into a lasting monument to the city's newfound political and economic power, crowning the entirety in white Parian marble. The Parthenon, the magnificent Doric temple honoring the city's patron goddess Athena, was richly embellished with some of the finest sculptures, and within stood the colossal gold-and-ivory statue of Athena made by the great sculptor Pheidias. Elsewhere, the artists Lysippos and Praxiteles were in their prime. In the west, schools of renowned die engravers were busy cutting dies for the cities of Sicily, particularly at Syracuse.

The dies used to strike the present coin extend the artistic competence seen elsewhere throughout greater Hellas to the northern Aegean. Here, the griffin departs from the earlier issues in that it sits upright, forelegs together and neck arched, with the nearer wing sloped along the back and the further providing a startling and effective background to the whole. The reverse portrays the hero Heracles in a human light, appearing utterly exhausted and at rest, as if just catching his breath. He turns to look over his shoulder, providing a sense that he is lost in thought, perhaps reflecting on his recent endeavors. The effect is indulgent, and serves to connect the viewer to the world of Olympus and the travails of the immortals. The magistrate responsible for this particularly handsome issue is one Philas. The legend appearing along the perimeter of the reverse, ΕΠΙ ΦΙΛΑΔΟΣ, uses the genitive case of his name to show that he was responsible for the issue, and also carries the proposition ΕΠΙ, "in the period of office of."





1055

Thrace, Abdera. Stater circa 346/5-336 BC, AR 11.68 g.

- 1055 **Description** ΕΠΙ Griffin lying l., raising r. forepaw; in exergue, ΠΑΥΣΑΝΙ[Ω]. Rev. ΑΒΔΗΡΗ – ΤΕΩΝ Laureate head of Apollo r.; all within shallow incuse square.
- References**
 AMNG II 139
 Weber 2388 (these dies)
 SNG Ashmolean 3490 (this obverse die)
 SNG Fitzwilliam 1642 (this obverse die)
 Chrissantaki-Nagle pl. 8, 11
 May, Abdera 467
- Condition** Struck on a very broad flan and on an unusually fresh metal. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Triton sale XIII, 2010, 84
 Heritage sale 3037, 2015, California collection, 30911

CHF 6'000

In mythology, Abdera was named after Abderus, a beloved companion of Heracles who perished after the hero captured the flesh-eating mares of Diomedes. In the historical record the site on the Thracian coast that would become Abdera was first settled in 654 B.C. by colonists from Clazomenae. That early effort failed, evidently because of conflicts with warlike Thracians. One hundred and ten years later, in 544, a new colonization effort was made by citizens of another Ionian city, Teos, who under the cover of night abandoned their homes rather than live under newly imposed Persian rule. When the Abderites began to produce coins, they chose to portray a griffin, as it was familiar from the coins of their mother-city. No doubt symbolically, the griffin faces left on issues of Abdera and faces right on those of Teos. Silver, fish, wine and grain were among the commodities that allowed Abdera to accumulate its astonishing wealth. The people of Abdera had a longstanding conflict with the Greeks on the nearby island of Thasos, as they competed for control of trade in the Thracian hinterland. It has been suggested that in 491 the Abderites fabricated a rumour that the Thasians were planning a revolt against the authority of Persia. Consequently, Darius forced the Thasians to tear down their walls and to deliver their ships to Abdera. In 463/2 Abdera again was able to profit from the misfortunes of the Thasians when their revolt against Athens was crushed. Abdera's wealth is evident not only from the large quantity of silver coins it produced and exported – often to the Egyptian delta – but also from the records of the Delian League. During the period 453 to 432 Abdera contributed annually about 15 talents to the league, suggesting its total payments may have been surpassed only by Aegina, Byzantium and Thasos.



1056

Thrace, Aenus. Tetradrachm circa 402-399 BC, AR 15.61 g.

- 1056 **Description** Head of Hermes, facing slightly to l., wearing brimless *petasus*. Rev. AINION Goat standing right; in r. field, eagle r. with closed wings. All within partially incuse square.
- References** De Luynes 1761 (this obverse die)
AMNG I, 318
May Aenus A259/P-
- Condition** Very rare among the finest specimens known. In exceptional condition for the issue. A spectacular portrait perfectly struck in high relief and with a magnificent old cabinet tone. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 77, 2000, 137
Tkalec 19 February 2001, 67
NGSA sale 8, 2014, 34

CHF 40'000

Aenus was the principal Greek settlement of eastern Thrace located along the eastern bank of the river Hebrus. The city only began striking coinage late, sometime around 474 B.C. in the aftermath of Xerxes' failed invasion of Greece and subsequent withdrawal from the region. The first tetradrachm issues were struck on a standard of three Persian sigloi, certainly due to the fact that Aenus lay within the recently-occupied Persian regions of Thrace but also in part due to the city's proximity to Asia Minor where the Persian standard was widely in use. Without the constraining tradition of an established coinage depicting archaic coin-types such as existed elsewhere in the region, Aenus was free to experiment, and its first artist commissioned to engrave dies for the city's coinage made unparalleled use of this freedom. On the obverse, he placed the head of the city's patron deity, Hermes, in profile, depicting the god wearing the felt cap or *petasos*, and on the reverse he placed the god's caduceus surrounded by the city's name within an incuse square. The nearest parallel to this obverse was the head of Athena on the coinage of Athens, but the quality of the work at Aenus is far superior to most contemporary designs from Athens. After this short-lived initial issue of tetradrachms, the caduceus of the reverse was replaced by a goat, a reference to Hermes' role as the divine goatherd, and this type would continue for all subsequent issues of tetradrachms from the city. In addition to the goat, the field usually contained a symbol to identify each particular issue of tetradrachms, such as the eagle on the reverse of the coin offered here.

After two-and-a-half decades of uninterrupted production, and as elsewhere at a number of other mints, sometime shortly after 450 B.C. coinage at Aenus ceased to be struck for a period of about fifteen years. This interruption has been attributed to the Athenian Coinage Decree, which imposed Athenian silver coinage, weights and measures on all of its allies. From c. 435 B.C. until the end of the Peloponnesian War, Aenus struck tetradrachms only sporadically. The end of the fifth century saw fundamental changes in both weight and design: the old Persian standard was replaced by the Chian of about 15.5 g, and which was in use by many of Athens' enemies. At the same time, the profile head of the city's patron deity was changed to a facing portrait, following the precedent set by Kimon in Syracuse and that had become fashionable at other mints, such as Amphipolis, Klazomenai and Rhodes.



Thrace, Apollonia Pontica. Tetradrachm circa 350 BC, AR 17.02 g.

- 1057 *Description* Laureate head of Apollo l. Rev. ΚΛΕΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ Anchor upright; A and crayfish at sides. All within shallow incuse square.
- References* Topalov, Apollonia 50 and p. 377, 17
SNG Black Sea 165 var. (different magistrate name)
- Condition* Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Unusually struck on a very fresh metal and with a portrait of Apollo, work of a very skilled master-engraver. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance* Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 412

CHF 10'000



Kings of Thrace, Lysimachus, 323-281. Tetradrachm, Lampsacus circa 297-281 BC, AR 17.13 g

- 1058 *Description* Diademed head of deified Alexander r., with the horn of Ammon. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΛΥΣΙΜΑΧΟΥ Athena enthroned l., holding Nike and spear in r. hand and resting l. elbow on shield decorated with lion's head; in inner field l., monogram and in exergue, crescent to l.
- References* SNG Lockett 1429
Thompson, Essays Robinson, 49
- Condition* A superb piece with an impressive portrait struck on high relief on a very broad flan. Old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance* NAC sale 33, 2006, 134
Nomos sale 2, 2010, 38
The Dr. Patrick Tan collection

CHF 4'500



1059

Thracian Islands, Samothracia. Triobol or hemidrachm circa 500-475 BC, AR 2.16 g.

- 1059 **Description** Sphinx seated l., r. foreleg raised. Rev. Lion's head l., with open jaws within dotted frame; all within incuse square.
- References** Schwabacher, *Ein Fund Archaischer Münzen von Samothrake*, Transactions of the International Numismatic Congress, 1936, p. 111, 9 and pl. XI, 9a (these dies)
Jameson 2444 (these dies)
SNG Copenhagen 991
- Condition** Very rare. Of superb style and with an enchanting old cabinet tone, weakly struck on reverse, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine
- Provenance** Heritage sale 3037, 2015, California collection, 29975

CHF 4'000



1060

Thessaly, Larissa. Drachm circa 356-342 BC, AR 6.13 g.

- 1060 **Description** Head of the nymph Larissa facing slightly l., wearing ampyx and necklace. Rev. ΛΑΡΙΣ / ΑΙΩΝ Horse grazing r.
- References** Lorber, Hoard, phase L-III, 38-60
BCD Thessaly 1154-7
SNG Copenhagen 120
- Condition** Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Superior Galleries sale 21 September 1990, 25
NFA sale XXVIII, 1999, 347
CNG sale 49, 1992, 661
CNG sale 87, 2011, 411

CHF 1'750



Thessaly, Perrhaiboi. Trichalkon 4th century BC, Æ 8.39 g.

- 1061 **Description** Veiled head of Hera facing slightly l., wearing earrings and necklace. Rev. ΠΕΡΡ[ΑΙ] – Β[ΩΝ] Zeus standing l., holding thunderbolt in r. hand, sceptre in l.
- References** Rogers 438
BCD Thessaly II 556 (these dies)
- Condition** In exceptional condition for the issue. An impressive portrait and a lovely brown tone. Weakly struck on reverse, otherwise extremely fine / about extremely fine
- Provenance** CNG Electronic sale 311, 2013, 243
The BCD collection

CHF 1'000



Epirus, Ambracia. Stater circa 360-338 BC, AR 8.34 g.

- 1062 **Description** Pegasus standing r., wing partially folded; between its legs, A. Rev. Head of Athena l., wearing Corinthian helmet; above, [A] and behind, nude male, wearing *pilos*, seated l. and holding short staff. In l. field, serpent coiled around tortoise.
- References** Ravel, Colts 135
Calciati Pegasi 86/2 (these dies)
- Condition** Wonderful iridescent tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Heritage sale 3037, 2015, 29986

CHF 1'000



Locris, Locri Opuntii. Stater circa 360 BC, AR 12.14 g.

- 1063 *Description* Head of Demeter I., wearing barley wreath. Rev. ΟΠΙΟΝ – ΤΙΩΝ Ajax advancing r. holding sword and shield decorated inside with coiled serpent; between his legs, ivy leaf and two parallel javelins on the ground.
- References* SNG Lockett 1695
BCD Lokris 44 (this reverse die)
- Condition* Wonderful old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance* Hess-Leu sale 19, 1962, 218
Leu sale 81, 2001, 197
Gorny & Mosch sale 232, 2015, 170

CHF 7'500



Boeotia, Thebes. Stater circa 480-460 BC, AR 12.04 g.

- 1064 *Description* Boeotian shield, rim divided into eight segments. Rev. Square incuse with clockwise mill-sail pattern; ⊕ in centre.
- References* SNG Fitzwilliam 2905
Myron Hoard pl. A, 14
BCD Boiotia 354 (this coin)
- Condition* Very rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine
- Provenance* Ars Classica sale XIV, 1929, 245
NFA sale XIV, 1989, 114
Triton sale IX, 2006, BCD collection 354

CHF 3'000



Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm circa 510 BC, AR 17.70 g.

- 1065 **Description** Helmeted head of Athena r. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig behind. All within incuse square.
- References** McClean 5796
T.L. Comparaette, *A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek Coins selected from the Cabinet of Clarence S. Bement, Esq., Philadelphia*, ANS, New York, 1921, pl. 13, 184 (this coin).
Seltman 283a (this coin)
- Condition** Very rare. A superb specimen of fine style with a wonderful old cabinet tone, minor metal flaws, otherwise good very fine
- Provenance** Naville sale VII, 1924, Bement collection, 1090
Sotheby's sale 27 April 1970, 150
Morton & Eden sale 51, 2010, 108
Purchased from Spink & Son before 1921

CHF 25'000

For a coinage that might appear straight-forward at first glance, there are some thorny debates associated with the issues of Athens. Some of the greatest points of contention include the chronology of the heraldic "wappenmünzen," the "owl-type" tetradrachms of the Archaic period, the decadrachms, and the "new style" owls of the Hellenistic Age.

The date for the introduction of the "owl" tetradrachm has been subject to wide-ranging views that have evolved significantly over the last century. Barclay Head, publishing in the late 19th Century suggested the period c.594/90-527/25 B.C.; J. Svoronos, whose work on Athens was published posthumously in 1923, narrowed that period to c.594-560; and Charles Seltman, in his 1924 corpus, favoured a slightly later date beginning in c.561.

Their views incorporated the idea that Athenian coinage was introduced by Solon, who became Archon of Athens in 594/3. This was based upon literary references of Aristotle and Plutarch to payments that subsequently have been read with less accepting eyes.

These texts are not definitive, and as Melville Jones notes in the second volume of his *Testimonia Numaria*: "...we must assume either that these payments were made in drachma weights of silver or, more probably, that the texts of these laws were modified or enlarged at a later date, or even falsely attributed to Solon to give them greater authority."

Since the 1960s there has been a spate of research conducted on Athenian coinage which has benefited from new and significant hoard evidence, that has been studied in a scientific manner. Consequently, Wallace argued for 510 B.C., upon the overthrow of Hippias; Starr, in his seminal work of 1970, suggested the first owls were struck c.525; Kraay favoured a date no later than c.520; and Kroll proposed sometime between 520 and 510.

Whether as early as 525 or as late as 512, by which time Athens had lost its Pangaeian mine to the Persians, the modern consensus is that the first owls – including the present coin – were introduced by Hippias, who ruled as tyrant of Athens from 527 to 510 B.C.



1066

Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm circa 510-500 BC, AR 17.60 g.

- 1066 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 6
Seltman group L
Seltman 338-342
- Condition** Very rare. Struck on a broad flan and of superb Archaic style. Lovely old cabinet tone, metal flaw on reverse, otherwise about extremely fine
- Provenance** Hess-Leu 45, 1970, de Nanteuil collection, 1851
Leu sale 77, 2000, 205
NAC sale 29, 2005, 181
Stack's sale 14 January 2008, Lawrance Stack collection, 2183
Peus sale 407, 2012, 378

CHF 20'000

There is perhaps no coinage of the archaic and classical Greek world as iconic as the Athena and owl tetradrachms of Athens. Indeed, they became so widely recognized that they were often referred to simply as "owls." These coins stand at the end of a period of remarkable typological experimentation in the late sixth century B.C. which saw the production of coins with many different types. This so-called *Wappenmünzen* (named for the erroneous interpretation of the types as badges - *Wappen* in German - of the elite families of Athens) coalesced into a monolithic coinage featuring only types associated with the Athenian state: the head of the city's patron deity on the obverse and her associated bird, the owl, on the reverse. This change from a cacophonous plethora of different types to a single type for Athens also came with a change in production and circulation. While the *Wappenmünzen* had been struck on a relatively small scale and circulated primarily in Attica and Central Greece, the owls were produced on a much grander scale with an eye to international trade, especially with Sicily and Egypt, critical grain-producers for the mouths of mainland Greece. This particular early owl is especially attractive for its well centered obverse showing Athena's full head and helmet crest as well as an equally well-centered reverse. The Archaic owl here is arguably more handsomely proportioned and more pleasing to the eye than the somewhat more stylized version of the bird on later tetradrachms of the Classical period. The small countermark on its head may perhaps indicate circulation abroad.



1067

Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm circa 510-490 BC, AR 16.79 g.

- 1067 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. ΑΘΕ Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig behind.
- References** Svoronos pl. 6, cf. 8-10
Seltman group L
Asyut pl. 14, cf. 261-265
Prospero 367
- Condition** Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Of wonderful late Archaic style and with a spectacular portrait struck on very fresh metal. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Roma sale 10, 2015, 268
Previously purchased from Gorny & Mosch

CHF 25'000

Following Seltman's stylistic criteria, which have sometimes been criticized by more recent scholarship, this archaic Athenian tetradrachm is probably slightly later in date than the previous specimen, but it is equally attractive and the types are again extremely well centered on the planchet. Athena's crest pleasingly bends into the edge of the coin and the rendering of the owl is especially charming; the engraver has made the feathers around the eyes look so soft that they almost beg to be touched. This beautiful coin was struck at about the same time that the Persian Empire was extending its power into Thrace and crushing the Ionian Revolt (499-493 B.C.). Athenian support for the rebels and their burning of the Persian capital at Sardis earned Athens the enmity of the Persian kings, Darius I and his son Xerxes I, guaranteeing that they would need a solid supply of owls to fund their naval defense when Persian forces later came seeking revenge at Marathon in 490 B.C. and again a decade later when they invaded mainland Greece. The ultimate defeat of the Persian invasion at the battles of Salamis and Plataia (479 B.C.) and the subsequent formation of the Delian League created the conditions for Athens to become the center of an Aegean empire in which the owl would reign supreme.



Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm circa 500/490-485/0 BC, AR 17.11 g.

- 1068 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 4, cf. 34
Seltman, group Gi, cf. 175-178
Asyut, group IV
- Condition** Very rare. A very unusual and attractive portrait of late Archaic style, light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Hess-Divo sale 329, 2015, 72

CHF 15'000



Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm circa 500/490-485/0 BC, AR 16.15 g.

- 1069 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 4
Seltman group M
SNG Copenhagen 19
Asyut group IVf, 343
- Condition** Very rare. Old cabinet tone and good very fine
- Provenance** Glendining's sale 18 April 1955, Property of Nobleman (Count de Laval), 379
CNG sale 91, 2012, 186

CHF 8'000



1070

Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm circa 467/466 or 463/462 BC, AR 17.18 g.

- 1070 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig and crescent behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 8, 19
Seltman 423
Starr 69
- Condition** One of the finest tetradrachms in existence from the series of the decadrachm. Struck on a very broad flan in high relief, old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Peus sale 349, 1996, 92
Triton sale I, 1997, 492
Freeman and Sear Manhattan sale I, 2010, 62
Goldberg sale 60, 2010, 2317

CHF 25'000



1071

1071

Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm late 460 BC, AR 17.08 g.

- 1071 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig and crescent behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 11, 10
SNG Lockett 1836
Starr Group III, 95-100
- Condition** Surface somewhat porous on obverse, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Hirsch sale 187, 1995, 335
Peus sale 400, 2010, 102
Tradart sale 18 December 2014, 114

CHF 2'500



1072

Attica, Athens. Drachm circa 454-414 BC, AR 4.27 g.

- 1072 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig and crescent behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 11
SNG Copenhagen 41-3
- Condition** Struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Heritage sale 3024, 2013, 24646

CHF 2'500



1073

Attica, Athens. Tetradrachm after 449 BC, AR 17.15 g.

- 1073 **Description** Head of Athena r. wearing crested Attic helmet. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; olive sprig and crescent behind. All within incuse square.
- References** Svoronos pl. 11, cf. 3
Starr pl. XXII
- Condition** An absolutely spectacular coin struck on an exceptionally large flan. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Gorny & Mosch sale 211, 2013, 224

CHF 10'000



1074

Islands off Attica, Aegina. Stater circa 480-457 BC, AR 12.27 g.

- 1074 **Description** Sea turtle seen from above; T pattern of dots on shell. Rev. Large skew pattern incuse.
- References** Dewing 1676
SNG Lockett 1970
Milbank pl. 1, 13
- Condition** In exceptional condition for the issue and undoubtedly among the finest specimens known. Struck in high relief and exceptionally complete. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Stack's Bowers and Ponterio sale 177, session B, 2013, 11065

CHF 15'000

Though it is technically impossible to know which city-state was the first in Greece to strike coins, it would seem that the honour belongs to Aegina, an island off the coast of Attica whose people excelled as sailors and merchants. The first type of Aeginetan stater, now attributed to c. 555-550 B.C., has on its obverse a turtle with spider-like flippers and a narrow, shield-shaped carapace decorated with a row of pellets along the central ridge; the reverse features a small, deep incuse square with raised, thin criss-crossing ridges. Such was the basic form of Aeginetan coinage for centuries to come. The initial issue was followed by a similar one (c. 550-530 B.C.) on which the turtle had a heavy collar, and the raised dividers in the incuse square assumed the familiar 'Union Jack' pattern. The collared turtle/'Union Jack' type subsequently went through at least five stages of development, covering the period c. 530 to c. 450 B.C. The shell on these later pieces is often decorated with a trefoil collar, with some taking on the form usually described as a 'T-back' the T-form created by the decorative pellets. Curiously enough, mixed within these turtles, from the periods c. 550-530 and c. 500-490/80 B.C., are 'proto tortoise' coins, which instead of a turtle show a tortoise with a shield-shaped, segmented shell. Aegina's next evolution was dramatic, for the familiar turtle was permanently replaced with a tortoise. The date of this exchange is not certainly known, though dates such as c. 457, c. 450, or c. 446 B.C. have been offered. In this case the tortoise had an oblong-shaped shell with raised, segmented squares that made it distinct from the earlier 'proto-tortoises', which had a shell that tapered at the end and which was of sharper relief. The 'Union Jack' incuse punch remained with the incuse areas being relatively shallow, with thick bars separating the sunken squares and triangles. The bars eventually became thinner, and various symbols and letters were placed within the sunken areas. On some of the last staters, generally dated from c. 350 into the 320s, the island's ethnic appears in the obverse field as the letters AI flanking the tortoise, or within the incuse portions of the reverse, abbreviated as AI, AII or AIII. Though minting of the tortoises seems to have ended by the late 4th Century B.C., they continued to circulate, with some of the later drachms even being included in a hoard from Zougra in the Peloponnese (ICGH 301) that was buried in about 146 B.C.



1075



1075

Islands off Attica, Aegina. Stater circa 456-431, AR 12.35 g.

1075 **Description** Tortoise seen from above. Rev. Large skew pattern incuse.

References SNG Lockett 1983

Dewing 1683

Milbank pl. 2, 13

Condition Wonderful old cabinet tone and good very fine

Provenance A. Hess sale 247, 1978, 136

Morton & Eden 59, 2012, 746

The D. Bérend collection

CHF 2'500



1076



Sicyonia, Sicyon. Stater circa late 330s, AR 12.24 g.

1076 **Description** Chimera advancing l., with r. paw raised; above, wreath and beneath, SE. Rev. Dove flying l., below its neck, N. All within olive wreath.

References BMC 57

SNG Copenhagen 48

BCD Peloponnesos 218 (this obverse die)

Condition Perfectly struck and centred on a full flan, light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

Provenance Giessener Munzhandlung sale 44, 1989, 328

UBS sale 78, 2008, 1045

CHF 5'000



1077

Olympia, Elis. Stater signed by DA..., circa 408 BC, the 93rd Olympiad, AR 12.28 g.

- 1077 **Description** Head of eagle l., beneath, white poplar leaf inscribed ΔΑ. Rev. F – A Winged thunderbolt; all within wreath.
- References** Jameson 1231 (this obverse die)
 Kraay-Hirmer 500
 Seltman Olympia, 151
 BCD Olympia 77
 Prospero 153 (this obverse die)
- Condition** Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, possibly among the finest specimens known. Old cabinet tone and good very fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 25, 1980, 118
 NFA sale XVIII, 1987, 160
 Morton & Eden sale 51, 2012, 118

CHF 10'000



1078

Olympia, Elis. Tetradrachm circa 356 BC, the 106th Olympiad, AR 12.26 g.

1078	Description	Laureate head of Zeus l. Rev. F – A Eagle standing r., with closed wings, on Ionic capital.
	References	Seltman 182c (this coin) Weber 4048 (this coin) Jameson 2102 (this coin) BCD Olympia 121
	Condition	Extremely rare. A spectacular portrait of Zeus of superb style struck in high relief. Wonderful old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
	Provenance	Sotheby's New York sale 19 December 1998, 24 NAC 72, 2013, 365 The Sir Herman Weber collection The Lambros collection The Jameson collection The collection of the Money Museum Zurich

CHF 60'000

One of the few ancient traditions that survived to be reborn in the modern world is the quadrennial Olympic Games. Though the religious aspect disappeared with the eclipse of Greco-Roman paganism, the spirit of athletic competition among nations has survived intact. Every four years the world's attention turns to these great games, as it did in Olympia so many centuries ago. The coinage issued for these games had numerous purposes – as vehicles for commerce, as a source of income through a mandatory exchange, as a showcase for the works of gifted engravers, as souvenirs for visitors, and as celebrations of Zeus and Hera, who presided over the Sanctuary at Olympia and the games themselves. A narrow range of images dominate Olympic silver coinage, including the portraits of Zeus, his consort Hera and the nymph Olympia, the eagle and thunderbolt as symbols of Zeus, Nike as a symbol of victory, and the laurel wreath as an allusion to the games. Olympic stateres appear to have been produced only to coincide with the games, and it has been demonstrated through Charles Seltman's careful die study (1921) that two separate mints contributed, one perhaps at the Temple of Zeus and another at the Temple of Hera. The mint of Hera probably was combined with that of Zeus some time toward the end of the 4th Century B.C., and perhaps a century later the Olympic mint may have been moved to the regional capital of Elis. This stater from the temple mint of Zeus is a perfect example of the fine workmanship of Olympic coinage of the early Hellenistic period, bearing a forceful head of Zeus and a vigilant eagle perched upon the head of a ram. Even within the repeating themes at Olympia the engravers celebrated varieties, including, on the Zeus/eagle issues, the eagle perched variously upon the back of a recumbent ram, a hare, a fawn, a stag's head, a snake, an Ionic column capital, or a simple base.





1079

Olympia, Elis. Tetradrachm stater 348 BC, the 108th Olympiad, AR 12.16 g.

- 1079 **Description** Laureate head of Zeus r. Rev. F – A Eagle, with closed wings, standing r. on Ionic capital; in lower r. field, horizontal thunderbolt.
- References** Seltman Olympia, 196b (this coin)
K. Schofield, Meisterwerke der griechischen Kunst, 517 (this coin)
Lockett sale part IV, 215 (these dies)
BCD Olympia, 136 (this obverse die)
- Condition** Very rare. A wonderful portrait of Zeus struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely old cabinet tone, about extremely fine
- Provenance** M&M sale 37, 1968, 199
Morton & Eden sale 51, 2012, 119
The Mutiaux collection, Paris

CHF 25'000



1080



1080

Kings of Pontus, Mithradates VI Eupator, 120-63 BC. Tetradrachm 73, AR 17.56 g.

- 1080 **Description** Diademed Head r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ / ΕΥΠΙΑΤΟΡΟΣ / ΙΒ Deer drinking l.; in l. field, star / crescent / monogram. In field r., ΔΚϚ. All within ivy-wreath.
- References** De Callatay, Guerres Mithridatiques, D65 R1a (this coin illustrated)
Hunterian 8 (this reverse die)
- Condition** Struck on an exceptionally large flan and complete, old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Tkalec & Rauch sale 14-15 April 1986, 113
Tradart sale 13, 2001, 76
Tradart sale 18 December 2014, 129

CHF 6'000

Few leaders in history were as polarizing as Mithradates VI. He is admired for his intense determination and his seemingly boundless talents, and yet he is detested for his many acts of cruelty, some of which cannot be excused even if one takes into account the violent age in which he lived. There can be no question that he was a military genius. He was one of Rome's most formidable enemies, with Cicero rating him better than the Carthaginian general Hannibal, and second only to Alexander III among the Greek kings. It took three of Rome's best generals – Sulla, Lucullus and Pompey the Great – to defeat Mithradates convincingly enough that he resorted to suicide. Mithradates came to power by arranging the murder of his mother, who was an unwanted regent, and he is credited with murdering other close family members and executing concubines rather than allowing them fall into enemy hands. He was so bitterly opposed to the Roman presence in Asia Minor that in a single night he ordered the murder of more than 80,000 Romans and Latins in residence there. Most of these victims, no doubt, were innocent of any crime against Mithradates, and could hardly have deserved the death sentence they received.



1081



Bithynia, Heraclea Pontica. Drachm circa 416 BC, AR 4.37 g.

- 1081 **Description** Bearded head of Heracles l., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΗΡΑΚ Bull butting l.; to l., retrograde K and in upper field, ivy leaf; in exergue, ΛΕΙΑ.
- References** SNG Black Sea 1582 (ivy leaf missing)
SNG von Aulock 352 var. (ivy leaf missing)
- Condition** Rare. Lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Giessener Münzhandlung sale 73, 1995, 140
Gorny & Mosch sale 211, 2013, 267

CHF 2'500



1082

1082

Mysia, Cyzicus. Stater circa 500-450 BC, EL 16.00 g.

- 1082 **Description** Boar standing l. on tunny fish. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square.
References von Fritze 90 and pl. III, 9
 Greenwell, NC 1887, 136 and pl. V, 30
Condition Very rare and exceptionally complete for the issue. Extremely fine
Provenance Heritage sale 3037, 2015, California collection, 30921

CHF 12'500



1083

1083

Mysia, Cyzicus. Stater circa 450-430 BC, EL 16.08 g.

- 1083 **Description** Head of Attis r., wearing Phrygian cap; below in field, tunny r. Rev. Quadripartite incuse punch.
References von Fritze 142 (this obverse die)
 SNG France 291
 von Aulock –
 Boston 1521
 Gulbenkian 644
Condition Rare and possibly the finest specimen known of this attractive issue. A portrait of superb style struck in high relief, extremely fine
Provenance New York sale IV, 2002, 191
 Triton sale XIII 2010, 174

CHF 20'000



Mysia, Lampsacus. Stater circa 412 BC, EL 15.18 g.

- 1084 **Description** Forepart of Pegasus l., below, †. All within vine wreath. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square.
- References** *Traité* II 327 and pl. VIII, 4 (this coin)
 BMC 8
 Head, NC 1876, pl. VIII, 31 (this coin)
 Agnes Baldwin-Brett, *The Electrum Coinage of Lampsakos*, pl. II, 12c (this coin)
 SNG von Aulock 1292 (these dies)
 Kraay-Hirmer 727 (these dies)
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest specimens known. Struck on a very broad flan and exceptionally complete for the issue. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Vinchon sale 24 November 1994, James & Sneja Velkov collection, 89
 Sincona sale 10, 2013, 130
 Found in Smyrna in 1875

CHF 25'000

To some degree we can gauge the importance of ancient cities based on their coinage; with this yardstick we can see Lampsacus was among the more prosperous of the ancient Greek states in Asia Minor. Not only did Lampsacus produce a few different groups of electrum staters in the 5th Century B.C., but in the next century, when it enjoyed self-government and it struck more than 40 different issues of gold staters. Its high-value coinage must have been quite familiar, for in the Delian inventories it is usually referred to by the familiar term 'Lampsacene gold'. The archaic appearance of the electrum staters invited earlier scholars to date them far earlier than hoard evidence now indicates they were struck. Wroth placed them as far back as 500 B.C., Head and Gardner both settled on 434 B.C. and Brett on c. 450 B.C. for this particular issue. Brett's own words reveal that style was her only objection to a later date: "These coins...look like a special issue such as might be occasioned by a sudden outbreak of hostilities, and if their style permitted, we should have suggested that the revolt of Chios and Lampsakos against the Athenian Hegemony, ca. 412 B.C., furnished a plausible explanation of the issues." The current view is that they were struck c. 412 B.C. in response to the general revolt against the Athenian alliance. Athens had for centuries been a dominant force in the Greek world, but its leading role was formalised in 478/7 B.C., when it formed a Greek alliance against the Persians that today is dubbed the Delian League or the Athenian Empire. Members' states, of course, wavered on the relative value of benefits versus the costs of membership, and Athens was not afraid to use force to prevent defections. This most memorably occurred in 416 B.C. when the island of Melos was sacked for refusing to join, and then sold all of its women and children into slavery. Thus, when Athens suffered its critical defeat in the Sicilian expedition of 415-413 B.C., numerous states revolted against Athenian hegemony. Lampsacus rebelled shortly before the Athenians defeated the Spartans at the battle of Cynossema in 411 B.C. and the Spartan fleet under the command of Mindarus was fatally defeated in 410 B.C. by Alcibiades. Such ventures required fresh currency, and it would appear that this rebellion was the circumstance that prompted this issue of Lampsacene staters. The prospect is strengthened by the fact that coins of this type were contained in the Vourola hoard (IGCH 1194), with a burial date in the last decade of the 5th Century B.C.



1085

Kingdom of Pergamum. Attalus I, 241-197. Tetradrachm 241-197, AR 17.00 g.

- 1085 *Description* Laureate head of Philetarus r. Rev. Helmeted Athena seated l., holding spear with l. hand and crowning with r. the legend; behind, bow, in inner l. field A and in outer l. field, ivy leaf.
- References* SNG Copenhagen 335
SNG France 1612
Westermarck Group IVA
- Condition* In exceptional condition for the issue. A spectacular portrait struck on a very broad flan and with a lovely iridescent tone. Good extremely fine
- Provenance* Maison Palombo sale 13, 2014, 25

CHF 7'500



1086

1086

Ionia, Phocaea. Hecte circa 387-326 BC, EL 2.56 g.

- 1086 *Description* Head of Nike l., wearing earrings and hair tied in knot above, wearing earrings; below in field, small seal l. Rev. Quadripartite incuse punch.
- References* Bodenstendt 105
Boston 1923
- Condition* Very rare. Extremely fine
- Provenance* The Bru Sale 1, 2012, 99

CHF 1'500



- 1087 Ionia, Uncertain mint. Half-stater (Milesian standard) circa 600 BC, EL 7.11 g.**
- 1087 Description** Globule within circle on raised square superimposed upon another raised square rotated 45 degrees, all within a square frame. Rev. incuse square divided into a half and two quarters.
- References** BMC 5, pl. I, 6 (these dies)
 Traité –
 Rosen –, cf. 251 for obverse type
- Condition** Exceedingly rare. A very interesting and fascinating issue, about extremely fine
- Provenance** Morton & Eden sale 72, 2014, 52
- CHF 10'000



- 1088 Ionia, Uncertain mint. Half-stater (Milesian standard) circa 600 BC, EL 7.05 g.**
- 1088 Description** Eight-rayed rosette. Rev. Incuse square with irregular division.
- References** Traité –
 Weidauer –
 Rosen –
 Roma Numismatics sale 7, cf. lot 549
 Tkalec, sale September 2008, cf. lot 35, for a similar obverse design but different denomination
- Condition** Exceedingly rare. A very interesting and fascinating issue. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Morton & Eden sale 72, 2014, 53
- CHF 10'000



Ionia, Clazomenae. Tetradrachm circa 380-360, AR 15.20 g.

- 1089 **Description** Laureate head of Apollo facing slightly to l. Rev. ΚΛΑΖΟΜ – [ΕΝΑΙΟ]Ν Swan standing l., preening its wing; beneath, ΗΡ – [ΑΚΛΑΕΙΔΗΣ].
- References** BMC 18
 Boston 1852 (this obverse die)
 Hurter, SNR 45, 1966, 12 (this coin)
 Prospero 508 (this coin)
- Condition** Extremely rare and among the finest specimens in private hands. Of superb Classical style, reverse surface somewhat porous, otherwise very fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 33, 1983, lot 378
 NAC sale 1, 1989, 198
 Peus sale 329, 1990, 194
 New York Sale XXVII, 2012, Prospero collection, 508
 CNG sale 100, 2015, 1451
 From the Vourla (Urla) Hoard 1964 (IGCH 1210)

CHF 12'500

Clazomenae produced some of the finest facing-head portraits in all Greek coinage, with most of them being unsigned masterpieces. However, one artist, Theodotos must have been renowned in his day, for he boldly signed his work "Theodotos made it". Erhart notes that this kind of declaratory signature has few parallels in Greek coinage, perhaps only at Cydonia on Crete and at Thurium in Lucania.

Apollo, who here is so perfectly represented, was the principal god of Clazomenae. With a work of such mastery one is obliged to find the source of its inspiration, and it has been recognized that it closely resembles the facing Apollo heads of Amphipolis. Even so, the possible influence – direct or indirect – of Kimon's Arethusa and the Helios portraits of Rhodes cannot be dismissed.

In the tradition of so many Greek cities, the swan on this coin is a canting type based on the city name. The importance of these majestic birds appears to have been two-fold at Clazomenae: not only was this bird sacred to Apollo, but it may well be that the city name was derived from the verb klazein, which, among other things, was used to describe the whirr of a bird's wings, or the screech or cry of their calls. The careful, naturalistic studies of swans at Clazomenae find no equal in Greek coinage. Sometime the bird is shown with wings open as it cranes its neck over its shoulders to look back or, perhaps, to tend to its feathers.



Ionia, Smyrna. Tetradrachm circa 160 BC, AR 16.62 g.

- 1090 **Description** Head of Tyche r., wearing mural crown. Rev. ΣΜΥΡ / ΝΑΙΩΝ / monogram; all within wreath.
- References** Jameson 1214
SNG von Aulock 2161 var. (diff. monogram)
Hunter pl. LI, 18
- Condition** Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Hess-Divo sale 327, 2014, 55

CHF 5'000



Ionia, Teos. Stater circa 478-465 BC, AR 11.85 g.

- 1091 **Description** Ἰ - Η - Ι - Ο - Ν Griffin seated r., with l. forepaw raised; beneath, female head r. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square.
- References** Balcer, SNR 67, -
Coin hoards VIII, pl V, 1
- Condition** Light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** M&M list 547, 1991, 17
Auctiones sale 22, 1992, 287
Heritage 3037, 2015, California collection, 30045

CHF 3'500



Islands off Ionia, Samos. Demetrios, son of Antionaides, magistrate. Tetradrachm circa 408-366 BC, AR 14.66 g.

- 1092 *Description* Facing lion's scalp. Rev. Forepart of bull r.; above, ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟ[Σ] ΑΝΤΙΩΝΑΙΔΟΣ in two lines; in l. field, laurel branch and below, ΣΑ. All within shallow incuse square.
- References* Barron 150 (A75/P144)
BMC 131 var. (name abbreviated)
- Condition* Extremely rare with this magistrate, only three examples noted by Barron. Toned, metal somewhat porous on reverse, otherwise good very fine
- Provenance* CNG sale 100, 2015, 1483
The Friend of a Scholar Collection
Purchased from Maison Platt in September 1980

CHF 2'000



Caria, Cnidus. Drachm circa 490-465 BC, AR 6.13 g.

- 1093 *Description* Forepart of lion r., with open mouth. Rev. Head of Aphrodite r., wearing taenia and with beaded hair.
- References* Cahn 56
SNG Keckman 121 (these dies)
Boston 1983
- Condition* Of lovely style, light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance* Morton & Eden sale 59, 2012, 749
The Denyse Bérend collection
Purchased before 1985

CHF 4'000



Uncertain Dynast of Caria. Stater, "Mint B" circa 450 BC, AR 11.74 g.

- 1094 **Description** Naked male deity, with wings at shoulders and heels, running r.; above l. shoulder, monogram (possibly o-y) or linear device. Rev. B – M – (koppa) retrograde Lion crouching l., with r. foreleg raised, looking backwards; above, monogram (possibly o-y) or linear device. All within dotted frame in incuse square.
- References** *Traité* I pl. XXIV, 18
 Robinson. NC 1936, p. 269, 12 and pl. 14, 12 (these dies)
 SNG von Aulock 2351 (these dies)
 SNG Lockett 2917 (this obverse die)
 ACNAC Rosen 624 (this obverse die)
 Wealth of the Ancient World 67 (this coin)
 Konuk M35 (these dies)
- Condition** Very rare. A very attractive issue of superb late Archaic style, light old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** NFA sale X, 1981, 186
 Sotheby's sale 19 June 1990, Nelson Bunker Hunt collection part I, 67
 NAC sale 66, 2012, 57

CHF 25'000

Our understanding of the Archaic and early Classical coins of Caria has increased dramatically in recent decades due to an improved decipherment of the Carian language. Pioneering work was conducted by Egyptologist John Ray in the 1980s when he laid the groundwork through the study of Carian-Egyptian bilingual tomb inscriptions. He demonstrated, among other things, that ancient Carian is a member of the Indo-European language group. Other linguists have continued Ray's work, including Ignacio-Javier Adiego Lajara, *The Carian Language*, and (especially with coin inscriptions) Koray Konuk.

This rare stater of an uncertain mint in Caria was struck to the Aeginetic weight standard. Five issues of staters are assigned to this mint, currently labeled by Konuk as "Mint B," all of which are linked by a symbol that looks much like a stylized caduceus. On this coin it appears on the obverse above the figure's raised left arm, and on the reverse above the center of the lion's back. Konuk considers it to be a linear device or an object rather than a monogram composed of letters from the Carian script.

Four of the "Mint B" staters are close variants of the present type. The fifth is a separate type with designs derived from the Classical-period drachms of Cnidus. It shows on its obverse the forepart of a roaring lion and on their reverse the head of a wreathed male within a strongly defined incuse square (on the Cnidus originals the head is of Aphrodite).

This type shows a naked male in kneeling-running position with his arms and legs in motion, creating a most pleasing and balanced composition accentuated by wings at his shoulders and heels. The identity of the figure is not known, but he presumably is a deity or a hero. The reverse shows a lion standing left with his back sharply bowed; his head is reverted, his tail curled forward and his right forepaw raised. In addition to the 'linear device' that appears on each side, the reverse bears a three-letter inscription that Konuk transliterates as *syp*, (perhaps *pys*?) which may abbreviate the name of a dynast.

A related series that is considerably larger and more familiar – the "winged Carians" – is now attributed by Konuk to Kaunos, a native port in Caria. His conclusion was drawn from the study of a trilingual inscription – Greek, Lycian and Aramaic – found in an excavation of the Letoon near Xanthos. The winged female figure on those coins is described by Konuk as Iris, and the triangular object on the reverse a *baetyl*, a conical stone worshipped as an abode of the gods.



1095



1095

Caria, Caunus. Stater circa 410-390 BC, AR 12.08 g.

- 1095 **Description** Iris with curved wings and outstretched hands in a kneeling-running position l., head turned r., holding a *kerykeion* in r. hand and a wreath in l. Rev. Triangular baetyl; in upper field, Δ-Γ. All within incuse square.
- References** Troxell 28
Konuk 101q (this coin)
SNG Kayhan 799
SNG Keckman 826 var. (with pellet on baetyl).
SNG von Aulock 2350
- Condition** Rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Münzen und Medallien list 482, 1985, 17
Hess-Divo sale 321, 2012, 170

CHF 4'000



1096



1096

Caria, Caunus. Stater circa 430-410 BC, AR 11.74 g.

- 1096 **Description** Iris with curved wings and outstretched hands in a kneeling-running position l., head turned r., holding a *kerykeion* in r. hand and a wreath in l. Rev. Bunches of grapes on either side of a triangular baetyl; in upper l. field, Δ. All within incuse square.
- References** Troxell 27
Konuk 96
SNG Kayhan 792
SNG Keckman 825
SNG von Aulock –
- Condition** Rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Hirsch sale 176, 1992, 293
Künker sale 21, 1992, 297
Hirsch sale 178, 1993, 337
Hirsch sale 180, 1993, 286
Gorny & Mosch sale 199, 2011, 477
Gorny & Mosch sale 211, 2013, 386

CHF 3'000



1097

Satrap of Caria. Ecatomnus, 392-377 BC. Tetraobol, Mylasa circa 392-377 BC, AR 4.25 g.

- 1097 **Description** EKA Forepart of roaring lion l. Rev. Stellate pattern in circular incuse.
- References** Konuk, Identities 11
SNG Keckman 274
SNG Copenhagen 588–589
SNG Kayhan 862
SNG von Aulock 2356
- Condition** Old cabinet and extremely fine
- Provenance** SBV sale 6, 1980, 68
Vinchon sale 24 November 1994, 269
CNG sale 99, 2015, 270

CHF 800



1098

Satrap of Caria, Hidrieus, 351-344 BC. Tetradrachm circa 351-344 BC, AR 15.07 g.

- 1098 **Description** Wreathed and draped head of Apollo facing slightly r. Rev. IΔΠΙΕΩΣ Zeus standing l., holding *labrys* in r. hand and sceptre in l.; below in field, E.
- References** Traitè II, 100
Pixodarus 3
SNG Copenhagen Suppl. 340
SNG Kayhan 880 var.
SNG von Aulock 8046
- Condition** Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Sotheby's sale 27-28 October 1993, 701
Peus sale 380, 2004, 520
Peus sale 401, 2010, 375
Peus sale 407, 2012, 607

CHF 3'000



1099



1100



1101



Satrap of Caria, Pixodarus, 341-336 BC. Didrachm circa 341-336 BC, AR 6.87 g.

- 1099 **Description** Wreathed and draped head of Apollo facing slightly r. Rev. ΠΙΞΩΔΑΡΟ[Y] Zeus standing l., holding *labrys* in r. hand and sceptre in l.
- References** Traitè II, 111
Pixodarus Coin Hoards IX, 21
SNG Copenhagen 596-597
SNG Kayhan 891-892
SNG von Aulock 2375-2376
- Condition** Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Gorny & Mosch sale 199, 2011, 475
Gorny & Mosch sale 211, 2013, 385

CHF 2'500

Satrap of Caria, Pixodarus, 341-336 BC. Didrachm circa 341-336 BC, AR 7.02 g.

- 1100 **Description** Wreathed and draped head of Apollo facing slightly r. Rev. ΠΙΞΩΔΑΡΟΥ Zeus standing l., holding *labrys* in r. hand and sceptre in l.
- References** Traitè II, 111
Pixodarus Coin Hoards IX, 27
SNG Copenhagen 596-597
SNG Kayhan 891-892
SNG von Aulock 2375-2376
- Condition** Old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** The Bru sale 1, 2012, 38
Privately purchased from Tradart in the 1980s.

CHF 2'000

Satrap of Caria. Pixodarus, 341-336 BC. Didrachm circa 341-336 BC, AR 6.97 g.

- 1101 **Description** Wreathed and draped head of Apollo facing slightly r. Rev. ΠΙΞΩΔΑΡΟΥ Zeus standing l., holding *labrys* in r. hand and sceptre in l.
- References** Traitè II, 111
Pixodarus Coin Hoards IX, 19
SNG Copenhagen 596-597
SNG Kayhan 891-892
SNG von Aulock 2375-2376
- Condition** Light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Stack's sale 168, 2012, 20444
Heritage sale 3035, 2014, 29092

CHF 1'750





Islands off Caria, Rhodes. Tetradrachm circa 404-385 BC, AR 15.23 g.

- 1102 **Description** Head of Helios facing three-quarters r. Rev. ΡΟΔΙΟΝ Rose with single bud on l., in r. field, Φ / wreath. All within incuse square.
- References** Bérend, SNR 51, 40 = Ashton Hecatommus 69a (this coin)
Ashton 35
- Condition** Very rare. An impressive portrait struck in very high relief, lovely old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 86, 2003, 411
Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 46, 2008, Millenia, 45
Nomos sale 3, 2011, 139
NAC sale 72, 2013, 377
The Guermentes collection
From the Marmaris Hoard of 1970 (IGCH 1209)

CHF 35'000

The coinage of Rhodes has been the subject of intensive study in recent decades, and many aspects of the series are now more clearly defined. Coinage for 'Rhodes' commenced in 408/7 B.C. after the citizens of three major cities on the island largely abandoned their ancestral homes to create a new city, Rhodes, on the northern tip of their island. This bold act was the catalyst by which Rhodes became a powerful maritime state that prospered throughout the political chaos of the Greek world during the forthcoming age of the Hellenistic monarchies. This Chian-weight tetradrachm was struck in the midst of the period of great production at Rhodes, by which time the mint's engravers were routinely producing facing heads of excellent style in high relief. This series covers nearly two decades that span the tail end of the 5th and the early years of the 4th Century B.C.; it includes 41 different symbols and control letters that have thus far been identified, though statistical analysis suggests that more are yet to be discovered. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of Rhodian coinage from this period is that it appears to have enjoyed relatively limited circulation. Hoard evidence shows that they are seldom found outside of the island of Rhodes or the nearby regions on the mainland. Considering the formidable reputation of Rhodian sailors and their extensive mercantile contacts, one might presume that the larger silver coins would be widely dispersed throughout the Greek world, especially since the Delian inventories indicate that Rhodian coinage was commonly used, and coins of the Rhodian type apparently were in demand by Greek mercenaries. A key to this riddle might be the anachronistic weight standard used by Rhodes, which may have assured that its coins were not readily exchangeable with those struck to the more popular Attic and Phoenician/Ptolemaic weight standards. Though it is always possible that most of the Rhodian coins exported in trade were melted due to their inconvenient weight, it is just as likely that Rhodian coinage was struck to a local standard with the intention that it would remain local to pay for the extraordinary expenses accrued each year by this powerful state, and that trade was largely conducted in the 'international trade currencies' produced by the major Greek states



Islands off Caria, Rhodes. Tetradrachm circa 404-385 BC, AR 15.28 g.

- 1103 **Description** Facing head of Helios slightly r., hair in radiating waves. Rev. ΡΟΔΙΟΝ Rose with single bud on l., in r. field, Φ above wreath. All within incuse square.
- References** Bérend 39 (this coin)
Ashton 35
SNR 51, 1972, 39 (this coin)
- Condition** Very rare. A superb portrait of fine style struck in high relief on a full flan, old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 50, 1990, 173
NFA sale XXX, 1992, 94
Sotheby's sale 26 October 1993, 56
Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 59, 2010, 2150
From the Marmaris Hoard of 1970 (IGCH 1209)

CHF 30'000



1104

Kings of Lydia, time of Croesus. Stater, Sardis circa 561-546 BC, AR 10.64 g.

- 1104 **Description** Confronted foreparts of lion and bull. Rev. Two incuse squares.
- References** *Traité* I, 407
SNG Kayhan 1018
SNG von Aulock 2873
SNG Copenhagen 455
- Condition** Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known. Struck on a very large flan and complete, good extremely fine
- Provenance** Sternberg sale XIX, 1987, 205
Sternberg sale XXII, 1989, 122
Hess-Divo sale 321, 2012, 178

CHF 15'000

By the time Croesus succeeded his father Alyattes as king of Lydia in 561 B.C., electrum coinage already had been used in Asia Minor for decades. Herodotus (1.94.1) states that the Lydians were the first to produce coins of gold and silver, an innovation now confidently attributed to Croesus, seemingly in about 550. Though the motivation for this advancement is nowhere recorded, it is generally assumed that it was meant to make it easier to determine the intrinsic value of the coins. All of Croesus' new coins portrayed on their obverse the confronted foreparts of a lion and a bull, a design steeped in the royal and cosmic imagery of the Near East. The reverse was a simple, two-part punch on which one segment was larger than the other. This corresponded to the dimensions of the planchets and the obverse die, on which the lion was noticeably larger than the bull. In both gold and silver the principal denomination was a 'stater' that originally weighed about 10.70 grams. The silver stater remained at that weight, but the gold soon was reduced to about 8 grams, requiring that a distinction is made between Croesus' 'heavy' and 'light' staters. The main denominations were supplemented with fractional denominations, following the established pattern of many older electrum coinages. Croesus had been issuing his new coins for only about four years when, in 546, his powerful and prosperous kingdom was sacked by the Achaemenid King Cyrus. Instead of executing Croesus, Cyrus embraced him as an advisor, as he admired Croesus despite his defeat. Cyrus also recognised the value of Croesus' coinage to the regional economy, and he continued to strike coins of the same design, purity and weight. The differences between the last issues of Croesus and the first of Cyrus are not perfectly or universally understood, as the only indications are often-subtle aspects of style and fabric. By about 500, if not earlier, the next Persian king, Darius I (522- 486), abandoned Croesus' lion-and-bull type and transformed the Lydian coinage into one that was distinctively Persian. The obverse now showed an archer who usually is described as the Great King, but who may be a hero, and the reverse was struck with a single, oblong punch. Though Darius kept the light-weight stater as his main gold denomination, he chose the silver half-stater (c. 5.35 grams), valued at 1/20th of the gold piece, as his principal silver coin. The new gold piece came to be known as a daric, after King Darius, and the silver piece a siglos, the Greek form of the Semitic shekel.



Kings of Lydia, time of Croesus. Half-stater, Sardis after 546 BC, AR 5.31 g.

- 1105 **Description** Confronted foreparts of lion and bull. Rev. Two incuse squares.
References Traité –
 Berk 23
 SNG Kayhan –
 SNG von Aulock –
 SNG Copenhagen –
Condition Very rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
Provenance CNG sale 99, 2015, 260

CHF 2'500



Dynasts of Lycia, Khinakha (?), circa 500-400 BC. Stater, uncertain mint circa 500-440 BC, AR 9.96 g.

- 1106 **Description** Pegasus flying l. on round shield. Rev. Triskeles; between the arms, pellet and monogram.
References Traité II, 225 (without monogram)
 Müseler-Nollé IV, 75
 Vismara 73 var. (without monogram)
 SNG Copenhagen –
 SNG von Aulock 4089 var. (without monogram)
Condition Rare. Light iridescent tone, flan cracks, otherwise about extremely fine
Provenance Gorny & Mosch sale 89, 1998, 229
 Peus sale 407, 2012, 726

CHF 4'500



1107



1107

Dynasts of Lycia, Teththiveibi, circa 440-430 BC. Stater, uncertain mint circa 440-430 BC, AR 8.35 g.

- 1107 **Description** Two cocks standing vis-à-vis on a convex shield; between them, monogram. Rev. *teththiveibi* in Lycian characters Tetraskeles within dotted square; all within incuse square.
- References** Traité II, –, cf. 328 (triobol)
Mørholm-Zahle II L.
Vismara 140
SNG Copenhagen Suppl. –
SNG von Aulock 4158
- Condition** Rare. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 77, 2000, 349
Peus 407, 2012, 738

CHF 7'500

Due to its strategic location on the southwestern coast of Asia Minor between the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean, the mountainous region of Lycia came to play an important part in the interaction between the Achaemenid Empire of Persia and the Greek world. In 546 B.C., the Persian general Harpagos invaded Lycia by means of the important town of Xanthos, and soon the entire region had succumbed to Persian hegemony. However, while Lycian forces were mustered for Xerxes' ill-fated invasion of Greece, Persian control was not permanent; for a short period, even, during the height of Athens' power in the mid-fifth century Lycia contributed to the Delian League. Until the conquest by the Macedonian armies of Alexander the Great, though, Lycia remained largely autonomous, absorbing foreign ideas and artistic themes but resisting outside interference in her internal affairs.

It comes as no surprise, then, that when the Lycians first struck coins beginning sometime during the last quarter of the sixth century, she followed archaic conventions found elsewhere throughout Greater Hellas, although with some differences, the most obvious being the peculiarly local standard of about 9.5 g. These first silver staters were substantially uniform, and showed the forepart of a boar on the obverse and an incuse punch, which soon developed, on the reverse. After the incorporation of Lycia into the Persian Empire as part of the first satrapy, the coinage became much more diverse, perhaps evidence of coinage's spread throughout the region and the opening of several new mints.

The relaxation of Persian control and interference from mainland Greeks in Lycia appears to have encouraged the rise of independent dynasts in the cities. Although very little is certain about the history of these dynasts – for instance, we know practically nothing about the reign of the dynast Teththiveibi in whose name this handsome stater was struck – they struck hundreds of interesting coin types. The principal subjects of the obverses of Lycian coins at this type were animals or mythological creatures, and a few deities. The influence of the great cities of Hellas is also felt: types such as the helmeted head of Athena and her owl were obviously inspired by Athens, and the Pegasos which is featured on many Lycian staters comes from the coinage of Corinth and her colonies. Along with these western-inspired elements of coin design, we begin to see the use of the Attic standard in the regions of western Lycia. The reverses continued the incuse manufacture of the preceding boar staters, but often the dynast's name in the local Lycian script surrounding a triskeles or tetraskeles became predominant, with the triskeles and tetraskeles perhaps indicating the federal element of the local Lycian form of government.

On this coin we have a depiction of two cocks confronted with a small Lycian symbol between their feet, the scene perhaps covering the central tondo of a shield. The birds are nearly identical, and with their chests puffed and tails erect, looking eye to eye, they seem poised to fight.



Dynasts of Lycia, Kherei, circa 410-390 BC. Stater, Pinara circa 410-390 BC, AR 8.41 g.

- 1108 **Description** Helmeted head of Athena r., bowl decorated with spiral and three olive leaves; behind neck-guard, *khêre* in Lycian characters. Rev. *kherêi – pillewi* retrograde in Lycian characters Head of dynast r., wearing Persian headdress.
- References** Traité II, –
Mørholm-Zahle II 43-46 (this obverse die)
Vismara 172
SNG Copenhagen Suppl. 449 (these dies)
SNG von Aulock –
- Condition** Rare. Old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Lanz sale 30, 1984, 298
Morton & Eden sale 51, 2011, 162

CHF 3'500



Dynasts of Lycia, Kherei, circa 410-390 BC. Stater, Xanthos circa 410-390 BC, AR 8.63 g.

- 1109 **Description** Helmeted head of Athena r., bowl decorated with spiral and three olive leaves. Rev. *kherêi – pillewi* retrograde in Lycian characters Head of dynast r., wearing Persian headdress. All within incuse square.
- References** Traité II, 345
Mørholm-Zahle II 37-39 var. (different legend on reverse)
Vismara 168-169 (different legend on reverse)
SNG Copenhagen Suppl. 447 var. (different legend on reverse)
SNG von Aulock –
- Condition** Rare. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** New York Sale XIV, 2007, 125
Peus sale 392, 2007, 4366
Peus sale 407, 2012, 752
Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 75, 2013, 2472

CHF 3'000



1110



Dynasts of Lycia, Kherei, circa 410-390 BC. hemidrachm, Pinara circa 410-390 BC, AR 2.15 g.

- 1110 **Description** Helmeted head of Athena r., bowl decorated with spiral and three olive leaves; in l. field, K. Rev. Head of dynast r., wearing Persian headdress. All within incuse square. *Traité II*, –.
- References** Mørkholm-Zahle II 67 (A31/P26)
Weber 7231 (these dies)
Vismara cf. 172–173
SNG Copenhagen Supp. 449
SNG von Aulock 4177–4178
- Condition** Very rare. Two lovely portraits and a wonderful old cabinet tone, surface slightly porous on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine
- Provenance** Tkalec sale 29 February 2000, 166
Numismatica Genevensis sale 6, 2010, 104
Numismatica Genevensis sale 7, 2012, 240
Triton sale XVII, 2014, 340

CHF 2'500



1111



1111

Dynasts of Lycia, Pericles, circa 380-360 BC. Stater, Phellus circa 380-375 BC, AR 9.77 g.

- 1111 **Description** Laureate and draped head facing slightly l.; in r. field, dolphin swimming downwards. Rev. *wehnteze perikle* in Lycian characters. Nude warrior, advancing r., wearing crested Corinthian helmet and holding sword in r. hand and shield on l. arm; in r. field, triskeles above shell. All within shallow incuse square.
- References** *Traité II*, –
Mildenberg, Mithrapata 21 (dies 14/16)
Olçay-Mørkholm, NC XI, 1971, 397-401, A1-P3 (these dies)
Vismara 215
SNG Copenhagen –
SNG von Aulock 4250 (this obverse die)
- Condition** A rare variety. Old cabinet tone, minor areas of weakness, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Leu sale 30, 1982, 194
Nomos sale 8, 2013, 197
The B. in B. collection.
From the Podalia Hoard of 1957

CHF 8'000



1112

Lycia, Oinoanda. Didrachm circa 200 BC, AR 8.14 g.

- 1112 **Description** Laureate head of Zeus r.; in l. field, A and sceptre. Rev. OI – NO / AN Eagle standing r. on winged thunderbolt.
- References** SNG Copenhagen –
SNG von Aulock –
Ashton, Oinoanda 1b (this coin)
Mueseler 11 (this coin)
- Condition** Wonderful iridescent tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Giessener Münzhandlung sale 138, 2005, 1442
Peus sale 388, 2006, 193
Peus sale 401, 2010, 401
Peus sale 413, 2014, 109
The K. Wiegandt collection

CHF 2'000



1113

Pamphylia, Aspendus. Drachm circa 420-360 BC, AR 5.45 g.

- 1113 **Description** Warrior (Mopsos) galloping r., brandishing spear in r. hand. Rev. EΣΤΦΕ-ΑΙ-Υ-Σ Boar advancing l.
- References** SNG France –
SNG von Aulock –
SNG Copenhagen Suppl. 516 (these dies)
- Condition** Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Wonderful iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Gorny & Mosch sale 203, 2012, 239

CHF 6'000



1114



1114

Pamphylia, Side. Stater, circa 460-430 BC, AR 10.87 g.

1114 **Description** Pomegranate within guilloche border. Rev. Head of Athena r., wearing Corinthian helmet, hair in queue. All within incuse square.

References Seltman ANSNN 22, 1924, 5
SNG France 629 var. (different style)
SNG Copenhagen 369 var. (different style)
SNG von Aulock –

Condition Wonderful iridescent tone and extremely fine

Provenance Gorny & Mosch sale 211, 2013, 415

CHF 4'000



1115



Cilicia, Celenderis. Stater, circa 410-375 BC, AR 10.81 g.

1115 **Description** Nude youth, holding whip, dismounting from horse rearing r. Rev. KEAEN Goat kneeling r., head l.; in exergue, dolphin r.

References Casabonne Type 4
SNG France –
SNG Levante 23 = SNG von Aulock 5631 (these dies)
SNG Copenhagen 83 (these dies)

Condition In exceptional condition for the issue. Wonderful iridescent tone and extremely fine

Provenance Lanz sale 151, 2011, 515
CNG sale 99, 2015, 311

CHF 3'500



1116

Cilicia, Soloi. Stater circa 385 BC, AR 10.74 g.

- 1116 **Description** Head of Athena r., wearing crested Attic helmet, decorated with a griffin. Rev. ΣΟΛΕΩΝ Bunch of grapes; at centre, AI – PE.
- References** Babelon, *Traité II*, 1431
SNG France 174
SNG von Aulock –
- Condition** Rare. A wonderful portrait of late Classical style struck on a very broad flan and with an enchanting old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Superior Galleries sale 9-10 December 1989, Jascha Heifetz collection part II, 2721
Leu sale 52, 1991, 106
Tradart sale 18 December 2014, 177
The René Baron collection

CHF 12'000

During the late seventh century B.C., Soloi was settled by colonists from Lindos on Rhodes, although the newcomers occupied a site of a much more ancient foundation. The polis was located along the southeastern coast of Asia Minor and straddled the border between Cilicia Pedias and Cilicia Tracheia (i.e., the border between 'smooth' and 'rough' Cilicia). It possessed a fine harbour which permitted a lucrative trade to develop, and the people prospered greatly under Persian domination. When Alexander the Great occupied the town in 333 B.C., he was able to levy a heavy tribute on Soloi's inhabitants for having supported the Persians.

Many interesting features of cultural admixture adhere to the spread of Greek-style coinage into regions that were beyond the normal scope of Greek culture or institutions, such as Cilicia. Here, for instance, we see the treatment of Athena as predominantly Greek, wearing an Attic-style helmet with even the addition of a springing griffin, yet the style is much coarser than anything contemporary from the Greek mainland and parts further west, such as the treatment of Athena on the nomoi of Thurium, Velia and Herakleia from which the Athena of Soloi ultimately derives. The grape bunch on the reverse continues the type occupying the reverse of Soloi's preceding coinage, the first from the city, which showed an Amazon testing a bow on the obverse, except that here it is struck from a round instead of a square punch. Between the grapes and the city ethnic is an early instance of a magistrate's name on the coinage of Soloi. Later it was to become an obtrusive feature of the coinage, often severely crowding the field of the reverse.



1117



Cilicia, Tarsus. Pharnabazus, 380-375. Stater circa 380-375 BC, AR 10.92 g.

1117 **Description** *bltrz* in Aramaic characters Baaltars seated l., holding lotus-tipped sceptre in r. hand; below throne, astragalus. Rev. *frnbz – hlk* in Aramaic characters Bearded bust of warrior l. wearing crested helmet decorated with palmette on bowl.

References Moysey ANSMN 31, 1986, Serie 2, 46b, pl. 3, 30
De Luynes 2833
SNG France 256
SNG Levante 73 var. (without monogram on obverse)
SNG von Aulock 5927 var. (without astragalus)

Condition Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine

Provenance Hess-Divo sale 327, 2014, 60

CHF 2'500



1118



Cilicia, Tarsus. Pharnabazus, 380-375. Stater, circa 380-375 BC, AR 10.60 g.

1118 **Description** Head of nymph, wearing earring and necklace with pendants, facing three-quarters l. Rev. *prnbzwlk* in Achaemenid Aramaic characters Bearded head l., wearing helmet; in r. field, *ankh*.

References Moysey ANSMN 31, 1986, Serie 3, 46-49.
SNG France 243
SNG Copenhagen 267-268
SNG von Aulock 5918 var. (different position of legend on reverse)

Condition Good extremely fine

Provenance Birkler & Waddell Ltd sale 2, 1980, 189

Heritage sale 3035, 2014, 29102

CHF 2'000



Cilicia, Tarsus. Datames, 378-372, Stater, circa 378-372 BC, AR 10.66 g.

- 1119 **Description** Stater, Tarsus circa 378-372 BC, AR 10.66 g. Head of nymph, wearing earring and necklace with pendants, facing three-quarters l. Rev. *tdnm* in Achaemenid Aramaic characters Bearded head r., wearing helmet; in l. field, bunch of grapes.
- References** Moysey ANSMN 31, 1986, Serie 4, 13v, pl. 2, 18
SNG France 271
SNG Copenhagen 287
SNG von Aulock 5941
- Condition** Two superb portrait struck on very fresh metal, wonderful old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Heritage sale 3035, 2014, 29101
The Lexington collection of Jonathan Kern

CHF 2'500



Cilicia, Tarsus. Datames, 378-372. Stater circa 378-372 BC, AR 10.53 g.

- 1120 **Description** *bltrz* in Aramaic characters Baaltars seated r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre, bunch of grapes and ear of grain; in r. field, *thymiaterion* and below the throne, branch. All within crenellated wall. Rev. *trdmw* in Aramaic characters Satrap seated r., wearing Persian dress, holding arrow; in upper r. field, winged solar disk with volutes and below, bow. Bull within rectangular countermark in r. field.
- References** Moysey ANSMN 31, 1986, Serie 6 (unlisted obverse die)
De Luynes 2839
SNG France 282
SNG Levante 85
- Condition** A very interesting counter-mark. Old cabinet tone and about extremely fine
- Provenance** Sternberg sale VI, 1976, 132
Hess-Divo sale 327, 2014, 61

CHF 2'000



1121

Cilicia, Tarsus. Datames, 378-372. Stater circa 378-362 BC, AR 10.72 g.

1121 **Description** *bltrz* in Aramaic characters Baaltars seated r., holding eagle-tipped sceptre, bunch of grapes and ear of grain; in r. field, *thymiaterion*. All within crenellated wall. Rev. *trdmw* in Aramaic characters God Ana, with raised r. hand, facing Datames, naked to waist; between them, *thymiaterion*. All within square dotted border.

References Moysey ANSMN 31, 1986 Serie 5.2, 18a (this coin cited)
SNG France 291
SNG Levante 83
SNG von Aulock 5944

Condition Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine

Provenance Münzen und Medaillen sale 7, 1948, 492
Münzen und Medaillen-Leu sale 3-4 December 1965, Niggeler collection, 445
Münzen und Medaillen sale 66, 1984, 276
Hess-Divo sale 327, 2014, 61
From the Rossbach collection

CHF 3'000



1122

Cilicia, Tarsus. Mazaios, 361-334. Stater circa 361-344 BC, AR 10.82 g.

1122 **Description** *bltrz* in Aramaic characters Baaltars seated l., holding bunch of grapes, ear of grain and eagle in r. hand and sceptre in l.; in lower l. field, Aramaic characters. Rev. *mzdi* in Aramaic characters Lion l. attacking bull; below, monogram.

References SNG Levante 106 (these dies)
SNG France 350 var. (different monogram)

Condition Wonderful iridescent tone, virtually as struck and almost Fdc

Provenance Hess-Divo sale 327, 2014, 63

CHF 1'250



1123

Syria, Abyaty, circa 342-331, didrachm, Cyrrhestica, Bambyke–Manbog circa 342-331 BC, AR 8.25 g.

1123 Description *hdd w 'th* (Hadad and Ateh) in Aramaic characters. Draped bust of female facing, wearing pearl necklace; in l. field, circle. Rev. *'byty* (Abyaty) in Aramaic characters. Great King and charioteer, who holds reins in both hands, driving quadriga of mules r.; countermark (Aramaic L) on mule.

References Mildenberg, Note 4, cf. 5 (this obverse die)
Seyrig, Hieropolis 4
Price, More 16–7
BMC –
SNG Copenhagen –
SNG München –
SNG France 350 var. (different monogram)

Condition Very rare. An interesting and fascinating issue, old cabinet tone and good very fine

Provenance Triton sale XV, 2012, 1275

CNG sale 93, 2013, 484

CHF 4'000



1124

1124

Seleucid kings of Syria, Seleucus I Nicator, 312-281. Tetradrachm, Seleucia in Pieria circa 300 BC, AR 17.15 g.

1124 Description Head of Heracles r., wearing lion's skin headdress. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ. Zeus seated l. on throne, holding Nike in r. hand, crowning him, and sceptre in l., in l. field, monogram and below the throne, KP.

References WSM 890
Le Rider, Antioch, 25 (A3/P11)
SC 29.1b
SNG Spaer 33

Condition A wonderful Hellenistic portrait struck in high relief, light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

Provenance Nomos sale 8, 2013, 199

Künker sale 270, 2015, 8364

The York collection.

CHF 2'500



1125

Seleucid kings of Syria, Antiochus I Soter, 281-261 BC. Tetradrachm, Ecbatana 281-261 BC, AR 17.17 g.

- 1125 **Description** Diademed head r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ – ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ Apollo seated l. on omphalos, holding three arrows in r. hand and resting his l. on bow set r. on ground; below, forepart of horse grazing l. and in l. field, monograms.
- References** ESM 519
SC 409.2c
SNG Spaer 316
Sunrise 182 (this coin)
- Condition** A spectacular portrait struck in high relief and a wonderful old cabinet tone. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Lanz sale 114, 2003, 184
Triton sale XVIII, 2015, Sunrise collection, 137

CHF 10'000



1126



Seleucid kings of Syria, Alexander I Balas, 150-145 BC. Tetradrachm, Tyre 146-145 BC, AR 13.26 g.

1126 *Description* Diademed head r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ – ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Eagle, with closed wings standing l. on galley's prow; behind, palm branch and in field, monogram over club – ΖΕΡ / monogram.

References Newell, ANSNNM 73, 79
SC 1835.6b
SNG Spaer 1538 var. (different date)

Condition A bold portrait, good extremely fine

Provenance Heritage sale 3021, 2013, 21487

CHF 2'000



1127



Seleucid kings of Syria, Alexander I Balas, 150-145 BC. Tetradrachm, Tyre 147-146 BC, AR 14.34 g.

1127 *Description* Diademed head r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ – ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Eagle, with closed wings standing l. on galley's prow; behind, palm branch and in field, monogram over club – CΕΡ / monogram.

References Newell, ANSNNM 73, 75
SC 1835.5b
SNG Spaer 1538

Condition Beautiful cabinet patina and of superb style, good extremely fine

Provenance Tradart sale December 2014, 184

CHF 1'500



1128



1128

Phoenicia, Ba'Lshallim II, 382-372 BC. Double-shekel, Sidon year 14, AR 27.94 g.

1128 **Description** Phoenician war galley to l.; above, Phoenician letter B. Rev. Persian king in chariot l. with driver; behind, king of Sidon following, holding sceptre and votive vase.

References BMC 17

Betlyon, *A New Chronology for the Pre-Alexandrine Coinage of Sidon*, ANSMN 21 (1976), 21, 16.

Elayi-Elayi 625

Condition Rare. Light tone and good very fine

Provenance Fixed price list SKA/Monetarium, Zürich 63, 1995, 96
Hess-Divo sale 327, 2014, 74

CHF 5'000



1129



Judaea. The Jewish War, 66-70 AD. Shekel year 3, 68-69 AD, AR 14.34 g.

1129 **Description** *SQL YSR'L* (Shekel of Israel) in paleo-Hebrew characters Temple vessel with date above. Rev. *YRWSLYM HQDSH* (Jerusalem [the] Holy) in paleo-Hebrew characters Stem with three pomegranate fruits.

References Kadman, *Jewish War* 20-21

Hendin 1361

Meshorer 18

SNG ANS 444

Condition Rare. Old cabinet tone and good extremely fine

Provenance Roma Numismatics sale 3, 2012, 336

CHF 6'000



Kings of Persia, time of Darius I to Xerxes I. Daric circa 500-485, AV 8.25 g.

1130	Description	Persian king or hero in kneeling-running position r., holding spear in r. hand and bow in l.; quiver over shoulder. Rev. Rectangular incuse punch.
	References	BMC 67 (siglos) Robinson NC 1958, cf. pl. 15, 8-9 (siglos) Carradice Type IIIa, cf. pl. XI, 15 (siglos)
	Condition	In exceptional condition for the issue, one of the finest darics to appear on the market in the last twenty years. Exceptionally well struck and neat. Extremely fine
	Provenance	Leu sale 91, 2004, 189 Tradart sale 14 December 2014, 191

CHF 10'000

This magnificent gold daric was struck during from early in the reign of Darius I to about the accession of Xerxes I, that is, during the first fifteen or so years of the fifth century B.C., the period encompassing the Ionian Revolt. The Hellenic communities of Asia Minor during the late sixth and early fifth centuries B.C. were much like any other Greek polis of the mainland, internally having competing political factions agitating for various concessions, and externally being at odds with their neighbours. What led the Ionian Greeks into revolt in 498 B.C. was, first and foremost, the debacle of the failed attempt to conquer Naxos the year before by Aristagoras, tyrant of Miletus, using support from the Persian satrap at Sardis, Artaphernes. However, widespread dissatisfaction with the Persian policy of ruling by proxy their Greek domains through the use of native tyrants was also a contributing factor, and was also the argument that Aristagoras, who having turned traitor to his Persian masters after his recent failure, used to goad the Greeks into open rebellion. The rebellion lasted five years, until 493 B.C., and was utterly quashed by the mighty Persian Empire, but not before first drawing into the conflict mainland Greeks from Eretria and Athens. Thus the Ionian Revolt set the stage for subsequent relations between Greece and Persia, and had the direct consequence of Darius' first invasion of Greece in 492 B.C.

The obverse of this coin depicts the great king in royal garb, wearing the royal tiara or *kidaris*, and holding a spear and bow, while the reverse is lacking any design and is simply the impression left by rectangular punch, its purpose being to force the metal of the heated planchet into the obverse die. The spear and bow are symbols, and represent the king as both a military leader of divine invincibility, and the foremost skilled hunter. Kraay mentions that the bow had additional significance, that it alluded to "the name of the 'archers' with which the king supported his political aims in the Greek world" (ACGC p. 32). The *kidaris*, a stiff leather headdress of Scythian vintage and similar to the *kyrbasia* and *tiara*, is depicted in various ways in classical and Persian art, but when worn upwards as here is a sign of royalty. (Interestingly, on some Greek ceramics from the period c. 510-450, certain symposiasts are shown wearing the *kidaris*. However, the underlying meaning is far from clear, and we should not necessarily accept its face-value meaning, that it represents a foreigner, either Scythian or Persian). The two small pellets behind the beard of the king differentiate Carradice's type IIIa from the later coins, his types IIIb A/B and IIIb C, which have the same design but were struck into the reign of Artaxerxes II, until about 375 B.C. The pelleted issues are also of slightly lower weight (that is, c. 8.20 g vs. 8.35 g for the darics, and c. 5.35 g vs 5.55 g for the sigloi). At the time that Carradice's seminal study of the royal Achaemenid coinage was published in *Coinage and Administration of the Athenian and Persian Empires*, he knew of no gold darics of type IIIa, only silver sigloi which are all quite rare.

An interesting truth about Achaemenid coinage was that it was purposefully made – probably at Sardis – for use in the west amongst the Hellenic poleis of coastal Asia Minor, the area where the first true coinage began and where it was already well established. Its purpose was probably twofold: to pay for state expenses, such as hiring mercenaries and other military needs, and to provide an easily portable form of collected revenues. The peoples in the interior of the Persian Empire apparently had not yet developed a need for coinage in order to transact business; they still relied on barter as a means for exchanging goods and services.



1131

1131

Kings of Persia, time of Xerxes II to Artaxerxes. Daric circa 420-375 BC, AV 8.35 g.

- 1131 **Description** Persian king or hero in kneeling-running position r., holding spear in r. hand and bow in l.; quiver over shoulder. Rev. Rectangular incuse punch.
- References** BMC 58
Carradice Type IIIb C, pl. XIV, 42
- Condition** In exceptional condition for the issue. Extremely fine
- Provenance** Peus sale 349, 1996, 137
Heritage sale 3037, 2015, 30926

CHF 4'000



1132

Kings of Bactria, Euthydemus II, 190 –171 BC. Tetradrachm circa 190-171 BC, AR 16.95 g.

- 1132 **Description** Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΕΥΘΥΔΗΜΟΥ Heracles standing facing, holding wreath in r. hand, club and lion's skin in l.; in l. field, monogram.
- References** Mitchiner 113 d
Bopearachchi Serie 1C
SNG ANS 216
- Condition** A wonderful portrait struck on a very broad flan. Light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** CNG sale 55, 2000, 827
CNG 94, 2013, 833
Heritage 3037, 2015, California collection, 30943

CHF 5'000



1133

Kings of Bactria. Eukratides I, circa 171-145 BC. Stater, Pushkalavati circa 170-145 BC, AV 8.47 g.

- 1133 **Description** Draped bust r., wearing diademed helmet, adorned with bull's horn and ear. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ The Dioskouroi on prancing horses r. both holding spears and palm branches; in lower r. field, monogram.
- References** Mitchiner 176 var. (unlisted monogram)
Bopearachchi 5 var. (unlisted monogram); cf. 7A (drachm)
Oikonomedes AJN 7, 1968, Group B
SNG ANS 163 var. (different monogram)
- Condition** Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc
- Provenance** Heritage sale 3033, 2014, 23055
From the Jonathan K. Kern Lexington collection

CHF 60'000

Possibly with Seleucid help (there is some evidence that Eukratides may have had matrilineal ties to the Seleucid royal house), Eukratides I of Baktria overthrew the last of the Euthydemid dynasty which had ruled over Baktria and parts of India for the better part of the previous century. He went on to establish his own dynasty, with his son Eukratides II set to inherit his kingdom, ruling a vast territory which at its greatest extent covered parts of the Indian subcontinent and was greater in size than any other Greek-ruled kingdom of the time.

Eukratides' gold coinage exists in two denominations, staters such as the present specimen, and the unique and magnificent twenty-stater multiple that is in the collection of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The latter is the largest ancient gold coin known, and shares its types with the stater. The obverse depicts the king wearing a wide-brimmed Macedonian helmet adorned with a bull's ear and horn, symbols mirrored on the Syrian tetradrachms of Seleukos I showing Alexander the Great as the legendary conqueror of the Orient, the god Dionysos. The reverse shows Eukratides' patron deities, the Dioskouroi, twin sons of Zeus and Leda and the brothers of Helen of Troy, riding on horseback with couched lances. Less than twenty of these gold staters are known and they are struck from a very few number of dies, which suggests that the issue was small to begin with and served a primarily ceremonial purpose. The occasion for the issue was most probably Eukratides' victory over Demetrios II, who had besieged Eukratides with vastly superior numbers. Despite these great odds, however, Eukratides emerged victorious, and after Demetrios was murdered by his own troops, Eukratides was left as uncontested ruler in Baktria. This stater is one of six known with this monogram below the Dioskouroi on the reverse, and is perhaps the finest known of all of Eukratides' known gold coins.



1134



1134

Kings of Bactria, Eucratides I, circa 171-145 BC. Tetradrachm circa 165-160 BC, AR 17.02 g.

- 1134 *Description* Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ The Dioscuri on prancing horses r. both holding spears and palm branches; in lower r. field, monogram.
- References* Mitchiner 168a
Boppearachchi Serie 1D
SNG ANS 432
- Condition* Light iridescent tone and extremely fine
- Provenance* Triton sale VIII, 2005, 643
Heritage sale 3035, 2014, 29130
From the Lexington of Jonathan K. Kern collection

CHF 2'000



1135



1135

Kings of Bactria, Eucratides I, circa 171-145 BC. Tetradrachm circa 165-145 BC, AR 16.96 g.

- 1135 *Description* Diademed, draped, and cuirassed bust r., wearing crested helmet adorned with bull's horn and ear. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ / ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ The Dioscuri on prancing horses r. both holding spears and palm branches; in lower r. field, monogram.
- References* Mitchiner 177i
Boppearachchi Serie 6T
SNG ANS 468
- Condition* In exceptional condition for the issue. Struck on a very broad flan and good extremely fine

CHF 5'000



Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy I Soter, as satrap 323-305 BC. Stater, Sidon circa 316-315 BC, AV 8.59 g.

- 1136 *Description* Head of Athena r. wearing necklace and triple-crested Corinthian helmet, decorated with twice-coiled snake. Rev. [A]ΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Nike standing l., holding wreath in r. hand and stylis in l.; in l. field, Σ (year 18).
- References* Muller 1321
Price 3503
Newell, Sidon 49 (DD – β)
- Condition* Perfectly struck in high relief, an almost invisible mark on obverse field, otherwise almost Fdc
- Provenance* Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 72, 2013, 4049
The Hunter collection

CHF 4'500



Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy I Soter, 305-285 BC. Third chryson or hemidrachm, Alexandria circa 305-285 BC, AV 1.78 g.

- 1137 *Description* Diademed head r., wearing aegis. Rev. [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] – ΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΥ Eagle standing l. on thunderbolt, with wings closed: in l. field, XA in monogram.
- References* Svoronos 232
SNG Copenhagen 46
Boston 2261
- Condition* Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue, among the finest specimens known. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc
- Provenance* Heritage sale 3035, 2014, 29122
From the Jonathan K. Kern Lexington collection

CHF 7'500



1138



Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy I Soter, 305-285. Tetradrachm, Alexandria circa 300-285 BC, AR 14.27 g.

- 1138 **Description** Diademed head r., wearing aegis, behind ear, small Δ. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Eagle standing l. on thunderbolt, with closed wings; in l. field, P above monogram.
- References** Svoronos 255
SNG Copenhagen 70–1
Boston 2264
- Condition** A bold portrait struck on large flan, old cabinet tone and good extremely fine
- Provenance** 51 Gallery sale May 2014, 39
Privately purchased from Tradart

CHF 2'500



1139



Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, 285-246 BC. Pentadrachm, Alexandria 277 BC, AV 17.80 g.

- 1139 **Description** Diademed head r., wearing aegis. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Eagle standing l. on thunderbolt, wings closed; in l. field, Σ over shield and between legs, regnal year I (10).
- References** Svoronos 573 and pl. XIII, 3
SNG Copenhagen –
Boston –
- Condition** A very rare variety and in exceptional condition for the issue. Virtually as struck and almost Fdc
- Provenance** Auciones sale 6, 1976, 316
Leu sale 86, 2003, 453
Maison Palombo sale 11, 2012, 16

CHF 15'000





1140

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, 285-246, with Arsinoë II, Ptolemy I, and Berenice I. Octodrachm, Alexandria after 265 BC, AV 27.80 g.

1140 *Description* ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy II, draped and diademed, and Arsinoë II, diademed and veiled; in l. field, shield. Rev. ΘΕΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy I, draped and diademed, and Berenice I, diademed and veiled.

References Svoronos 603 and pl. XIV, 16

SNG Copenhagen 132

Boston 2274 (Ptolemy III Euergetes)

Condition Perfectly struck and centred in high relief, extremely fine

Provenance Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 69, 2012, 3211.

CHF 12'000



1141

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, 285-246 BC, with Arsinoë II, Ptolemy I, and Berenice I. Half mnaieion or tetradrachm, Alexandria after 265 BC, AV 13.90 g.

1141 *Description* ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy II, draped and diademed, and Arsinoë II, diademed and veiled, in l. field, shield. Rev. ΘΕΩΝ Jugate busts r. of Ptolemy I, diademed and draped, and Berenice I, diademed and veiled.

References Svoronos 604 and pl. XIV, 19

SNG Copenhagen 133

Boston 2275 (Ptolemy III Euergetes)

Condition Rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Lovely reddish tone and good extremely fine

Provenance Heritage sale 3035, 2014, 29124

CHF 6'000



1142

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy III Euergetes, 246-222. Octodrachm, Alexandria after 241 BC, AV 27.81 g.

- 1142 **Description** Diademed and veiled bust of Berenice r. Rev. BEPENIKHΣ – ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΗΣ Cornucopiae filled with fruit and bound with fillet.
- References** Svoronos 1113 and pl. 35, 1
Boston 2348
SNG Copenhagen 169
- Condition** Very rare. A beautiful portrait of fine style struck in high relief on a very broad flan, good extremely fine
- Provenance** Nomos sale 3, 2011, 156
Nomos sale 9, 2014, 186
The APCW collection

CHF 40'000

Coinage in the name of Berenice belongs to a large, complex and attractive series that has benefited from much discussion in recent years. There is continual debate about the mints, dates, denominations, and weight standards, and even which Berenice is honoured: Berenice II, the wife of Ptolemy III, or Berenice Syra, the king's sister?

The traditional view is that the king's wife is honoured, but Hazzard suggests it may be the sister of Ptolemy III. He sees the coins as products of the Third Syrian War (Laodicean War), which began in 246 upon the death of the Seleucid King Antiochus II under mysterious circumstances. It caused a dynastic crisis, for he had two wives, the Seleucid Laodice and the Ptolemaic Berenice Syra, both of whom had children who were considered legitimate heirs to the Seleucid throne.

When Berenice Syra and her son were murdered in 246, it eliminated Ptolemaic claims to the Seleucid throne, thus causing Ptolemy III to invade Seleucid territories. The offensive was successful, but ground to a halt when domestic crises in Egypt forced Ptolemy III to return in haste. In 241, after a series of conflicts that often took place in the realm of international politics, Ptolemy III made peace with Seleucus II, the young man who had been made king in place of his nephew.

As much sense as Hazzard's suggestion makes, the case for Berenice II, a queen in her own right, is perhaps stronger. She had married Ptolemy III in about 246, the eventful year of Berenice Syra's death. Throughout the Third Syrian War she capably ruled in Egypt in his absence. Furthermore, the portrait bears no symbols that suggest that the subject was deceased. On the earlier coinage for the deceased Arsinoe II, the bust is adorned with the divine attributes of a ram's horn and a lotus-tipped sceptre. Neither is present on the Berenice coinage, and Berenice II was alive throughout her husband's reign, whereas Berenice Syra was deceased. A third option – equally impossible to prove – is that the coinage was intentionally ambiguous so as to honour Berenice II and Berenice Syra simultaneously.



1143

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy III Euergetes, 246-222, in the name of Berenice II. Pentadrachm, Alexandria After 241 BC, AV 21.36 g.

- 1143 **Description** Diademed and veiled bust of Berenice r. Rev. ΒΕΡΕΝΙΚΗΣ – ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΗΣ Cornucopiae filled with fruit and bound with fillets; on either side, star and between cornucopiae and fillet in lower field, E.
- References** Svoronos 973 and pl. XXIX, 2
Boston 2278
- Condition** Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Good extremely fine
- Provenance** Nomos sale 3, 2011, 158
Nomos sale 9, 2014, 187
The APCW collection

CHF 30'000



1144



1144

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy IV Philopator, 221-204, in the name of Ptolemy III. Octodrachm, Alexandria circa 221-205, AV 27.85 g.

1144 **Description** Radiate and diademed bust of deified Ptolemy III r., wearing aegis and trident over l. shoulder. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Radiate cornucopiae bound with royal diadem; below in field, ΔΙ.

References Svoronos 1117
BMC 103
SNG Copenhagen 196
Kraay-Hirmer 803

Condition In unusually fine condition for the issue. Well-struck in high relief and good extremely fine

Provenance Ex CNG sale 100, 2015, 1609

CHF 15'000



1145



Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy IV Philopator, 221-204 BC. Tetradrachm, Alexandria circa 220, AR 14.39 g.

1145 **Description** Diademed bust r., wearing aegis tied. Rev. ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ – ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ Eagle standing l., with wings closed, on thunderbolt; in l. field, monogram.

References Svoronos 1207
SNG Copenhagen 548

Condition Rare. Light iridescent tone and good extremely fine

Provenance CNG, Classical Numismatic Review 17, 1992, 154

Peus sale 407, 2012, 913

CHF 3'000



1146

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt. Ptolemy IV Philopator, 221-204 BC Octodrachm, Sidon circa 202-200 BC, AV 27.80 g.

1146	Description	Diademed and draped bust r. Rev. ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ – ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ Eagle standing r., with closed wings, on thunderbolt; in r. field, ΣΩ / ΣΙ.
	References	Bank Leu Auction 52, 15 May, 1991, lot 136 (these dies)
	Condition	Of the highest rarity, only two specimens known, and among the most spectacular gold Greek coins in existence. A magnificent portrait work of very skilled master engraver perfectly struck in high relief, a real masterpiece of Hellenistic art. Almost invisible marks, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc
	Provenance	Numismatic Fine Arts sale XXV, 1990, 285 Ira & Larry Goldberg sale 72, 2013, 4111 The Hunter collection

CHF 300'000

This extremely rare and intensely desirable octodrachm represents the pinnacle of Hellenistic portrait coinage although it was struck in connection with what was probably the greatest crisis for the Ptolemaic kingdom since its founding by Ptolemy I Soter (323-283/2 B.C.). Ptolemy V, known as Epiphanes, came to the throne at the young age of five when his father, Ptolemy IV, died. He was under the control of a cabal of ministers and courtiers, who already exercised excessive influence under his debauched father and who, upon Ptolemy IV's death, immediately did away with his popular mother, Arsinoë III. This situation left the Ptolemaic kingdom in a precariously weak state, which the Antigonid Macedonian and Seleucid kings, Philip V and Antiochos III, plotted to use to their advantage. In 205 B.C., they agreed to divide the Ptolemaic possessions outside Egypt between them and while Philip V began attacks in Asia Minor and the Aegean Islands, Antiochos III embarked upon the Fifth Syrian War. Despite some early success in defending Phoenicia against Antiochos III, the total defeat of the Ptolemaic army at Panion in 201 B.C. guaranteed the successful Seleucid conquest of the region. Phoenicia was never again a Ptolemaic possession until Mark Antony presented (or sold) it to Cleopatra VII (51-30 B.C.) in what has become known as the Donations of Alexandria.

Impressive gold denominations struck at Ptolemaic mints in Phoenicia were normally connected to preparations for war with the neighboring Seleucid kingdom (i.e. the dated issues of the Third and Fourth Syrian Wars) and the present octodrachm is no exception. It appears to have been struck at Sidon shortly after the intentions of Antiochos III became clear, apparently in order to fund defensive works and the massing of troops in the region on the eve of the Seleucid invasion.

The mint is indicated by the ΣΙ mintmark in the right field of the reverse. The letters ΣΩ below the mintmark is commonly described as the signature of Sosibios, the chief Alexandrian minister under Ptolemy IV and at the beginning of that of Ptolemy V. However, Sosibios was deposed by his colleague Agathokles already in 203/2 B.C., that is, before the gold Ptolemy IB portrait series was struck. Thus the letters ΣΩ cannot stand for Sosibios and must refer to a different individual.

The choice of types employed on this coin strongly suggests the dire situation in which the Ptolemaic kingdom found itself. The obverse of this octodrachm features a stunning portrait of Ptolemy IV in the best Hellenistic style and executed by a true master of the ancient engraver's art. The fine treatment of the king's facial features has led to the suggestion that they visually express his dissolute character, but this sort of interpretation has been strongly criticized in recent years for its basis in stereotype. The king is clearly not intended to appear foppish here: an unseen wind blows out the ends of his diadem giving him the air of a man of action, completely fearless and at ease when about to charge into the midst of the storm. Indeed, it is largely for this reason that Ptolemy IV appears on this issue of his young son and successor. His image serves not only to advertise the legitimacy of young Epiphanes in the face of his enemies, but perhaps more importantly to rally the kingdom around the son of a king who had previously held back an invasion by Antiochos III during the Fourth Syrian War (219-217 B.C.). At the head of an army including many untested native Egyptians, Ptolemy IV had defeated Antiochos III in an epic battle at Raphia, thereby saving the kingdom from conquest. The octodrachm portrait is simultaneously a reminder of that signal victory and an invocation for the deified victor of Raphia to aid the kingdom again in its hour of need.

Also suggesting a call for divine protection against the invading Seleucids is the eagle type of the reverse. The eagle standing on a thunderbolt was established as the badge of the Ptolemaic dynasty already under Ptolemy I Soter. It is explained by a dynastic myth in which the child Ptolemy was saved from death by the timely intervention of an eagle serving the will of Zeus, the greatest of the Olympian gods. Since this type was normally reserved for silver issues, it is tempting to see it as having a special soteriological meaning here. Unfortunately, as it turned out, this beautiful golden prayer for protection from an embattled son to his divine father was not answered; Phoenicia and Koile Syria were lost to the Seleucids.



1147

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy VI Philometor, 180-145 BC or Ptolemy VIII Euergetes, 145-116 BC. Octodrachm, in the name of Arsinoe II, Alexandria circa 180-116, AV 27.89 g.

- 1147 **Description** Diademed and veiled head of the deified Arsinoe II r.; in field I, K. Rev. ΑΡΣΙΝΟΗΣ – ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ Double cornucopiae filled with fruit and bound with fillets.
- References** Svoronos 1498 and pl. 51, 18
SNG Copenhagen 322
Boston 2293
- Condition** In exceptional state of preservation, almost invisible marks, otherwise virtually as struck and almost Fdc

CHF 12'500



1148

Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, Ptolemy VIII Euergetes, 145-116 BC. Didrachm, Aradus (?) 144-143 BC, AR 6.93 g.

- 1148 **Description** Diademed bust r., wearing aegis. Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ – ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Eagle standing l., with wings closed, on thunderbolt; at sides in field, P – IC and below the legs, E.
- References** Svoronos 1226
SNG Copenhagen 561
- Condition** Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Wonderful old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Münz Zentrum – Albrecht & Hoffmann GmbH sale 54, 1985, 466
Numismatic Auction 3, 1985, 179
Gallery 51 sale 30 May 2014, 40

CHF 3'000



Cyrenaica, Cyrene. Tetradrachm circa 480-435 BC, AR 16.39 g.

- 1149 **Description** Silphium plant with two pairs of leaves and five umbels. Rev. XVPA retrograde (*sic!*) Pearl-diademed, bearded and horned head of Zeus Ammon r.
- References** BMC pl. V, 14 BO (this reverse die)
Jameson 1350 var. (KYPA on reverse)
SNG Copenhagen 1174 (KYPA on reverse)
- Condition** Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A wonderful portrait of fine style and a light iridescent tone. About extremely fine / extremely fine
- Provenance** Stack's Bowers and Ponterio sale 177, 2013, 11121

CHF 25'000



1150

Cyrenaica, Cyrene. Tetradrachm circa 390-380 BC, AR 13.47 g.

- 1150 **Description** K-V/[P]-A/N/-AI/O-N (retrograde) Silphium plant with three pairs of leaves and seven umbels. Rev. [NIKIOΣ] Laureate, bearded and horned head of Zeus Ammon r.
- References** BMC 79 and pl. X, 3-4 B (these reverse dies)
SNG Spencer Churchill 170 (this coin)
Gillet 1213 (this coin)
SNG Lockett 3469 (this reverse die)
Bendenoun, Splendeur et témoignage, 110 (this coin)
- Condition** Very rare and among the finest tetradrachms of Cyrene in existence. An enchanting portrait of late Classical style, work of a very skilled engraver. A wonderful old cabinet tone, slightly off-centre on obverse, otherwise extremely fine
- Provenance** Naville sale 4, 17 June 1922, Grand duc Alexandre Michailovitch, 988
Leu sale 45, 1988, 295
Tradart sale December 2014, 200 (illustrated on the front cover page)
The E. G. Spencer Churchill collection
The Charles Gillet collection

CHF 50'000

The silphium plant, which was perhaps a type of giant fennel, was both indigenous to and limited to Cyrenaica, and its by-products were the principal export of the entire region. Its uses were said to be numerous and varied: it served as feed for cattle; it was sought as a cure-all for many physical ailments, from alleviating toothache to treating epilepsy, and as a form of birth control; it was used as a spice; and it even served cosmetic purposes as a perfume. Because the plant resisted cultivation but was so important to the local economy, its harvesting appears to have been tightly regulated. Even so, by about the first century A.D. it had become extinct.

As important as the silphium plant was to the people of Cyrenaica, it is no wonder that it became the badge used on the coinage of all of the region's cities. The plant is usually depicted in full, as on the coin of Cyrene offered here, complete with leaves, flowers, and fruits (on the earliest issues only the fruit is shown). The reverse portrays a remarkable bust of Zeus Ammon, the region's most important deity, which by the time this coin was struck in the early part of the fourth century B.C. had become a common feature of Cyrene's coinage.



Celtic coins



1151



Central Europe Celts, the Vindelici. Stater early 1st century BC, AV 7.61 g.

- 1151 **Description** *Triskeles* within a wreath-like torque with an annulet at each open end. Rev. Pyramid of eight annulets: five, on the bottom, each enclosing a pellet, and three, forming the top two rows, each enclosing a smaller annulet; all within wavy torque.
- References** De la Tour 9441
Allen-Nash 160
Kellner type IX B
- Condition** In exceptional condition for the issue. Well-struck and centred on a full flan and good extremely fine
- Provenance** Nomos sale 3, 2011, 2
Triton sale XVIII, 2015, 816
The Anthemion collection

CHF 10'000



1152



Middle and Lower Danube Celts. Tetradrachm imitating types of Philip II of Macedonia, 1st century BC, AR 13.85 g.

- 1152 **Description** Laureate head of Zeus r. Rev. Stylised horseman l.
- References** Göbl OTA 182
Kostial, Lanz –
- Condition** Old cabinet tone and extremely fine
- Provenance** Gorny & Mosch sale 232, 2015, 18

CHF 1'500





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