

Ionia
C. 600 - 550 B.C.
Electrum 1/24 Stater



Ionia lies in central Western Anatolia (Asia Minor) on the shores of the Aegean Sea. The region is rather small and mountainous unsuited for agriculture but excellent for seafaring. Greek settlement took place in the 11th to 10th Centuries B.C. despite hostilities with the native Luwians (Indo-European people related to the Hittites and Lycians). After resisting fairly well to the Cimmerian invasion, the Ionians were gradually conquered by the Lycian Kingdom, and later by the Persian Empire. Ionia was freed by Alexander but became a contested prize for the Hellenistic kings, until the last king of Pergamum bequeathed his land to Rome. Ionia offered the world countless philosophers and men of science, and a fabulous school of art.

As reported by B.V. Head in Chapter 5 of Excavations at Ephesus: The Archaic Artemisia, a coin of this type was one of five coins found in excavations underneath the foundations of the southern wall of the B cella of the Artemisia at Ephesus. The other four coins were lion head and lion paw types. Head wrote these coins must have been deposited during construction of the First Temple (A). Weidauer 145 is the coin found at the Artemisia (= Head Artemisia 79), now at the Arkeoloji Müzesi, Istanbul. The Weidauer coins have more wear (die wear?) than our coin, but do appear to be from the same obverse die.

Forum Number: SH75300

References: Milesian standard; Weidauer 145 - 146; Head Artemisia p. 86 and pl. 2, 79; cf. SNGvA 1781 (different style); Rosen 287 (same); SNG Kayhan 717 (same)

Grade: EF, perhaps the finest known of a very rare and important type

Weight: 0.597 grams

Maximum Diameter: 6.7mm

Mint: uncertain Ionian mint

Date Struck: C. 600 - 550 B.C.

Obverse Description: Bridled head and neck of Pegasos left, with top edge of wing visible

Reverse Description: Raised cross pattern within incuse square punch

Comments: Ex Tkalec AG auction Feb 2013, lot 88, realized 2,000 Swiss francs (\$2,151) plus fees; ex Gorny & Mosch auction 199 (10 Oct 2011), realized 2,000 EUR (\$2,699) plus fees. Very rare.

FORVM ANCIENT COINS certifies this item is genuine as described above.

Joseph T. Sermarini



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