

Basic Detail Report



Greek Tetradrachm, Athens

Date

c. 460 B.C.E.

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Greek (Ancient)

Medium

Silver

Description

This silver tetradrachm was minted in Athens, Greece. Given their mass production from c. 465 B.C.E to 404 B.C.E., Tetradrachms of this classical type are some of the most commonly recovered ancient coins. Its obverse depicts Athena, the patron goddess of Athens, wearing a crested Attic helmet decorated with olive leaves and a palmette, facing towards the right. On its reverse is the Athenian owl facing right with the letters , a Greek abbreviation

meaning "of the Athenians." The Athenian Owl, which symbolized the wisdom and knowledge of Athena, is joined on the reverse by an olive branch and a crescent moon. This coin is a part of the Paine Coin Collection. This teaching collection of 32 Greek and Roman coins was formed by John Alsop Paine (1840 – 1912), Class of 1859, who was an archaeologist with the Palestine Exploration Society and a Curator in the Department of Casts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1889 until 1906. The collection came to the college through John Alsop Paine's grandson, Nathaniel Emmons Paine (1853 – 1948), Class of 1874.

Dimensions

Diameter: 15/16 in. (2.4 cm)