

Basic Detail Report



Greek Tetradrachm, Syracuse

Date

490 B.C.E. - 461 B.C.E.

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Greek (Ancient)

Medium

Silver

Description

This tetradrachm from Syracuse depicts the head of Arethusa, the patron nymph of Syracuse, facing right and surrounded by four dolphins with the inscription YAKOION, meaning "of the Syracusans." Dolphins were common in the Mediterranean Sea around Sicily and are commonly depicted on coinage from Syracuse. On the reverse of this coin, a charioteer drives a quadriga, or a four-horse chariot, facing right, while winged Nike, the goddess of Victory, flies above.

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: 7/8 in. (2.3 cm)