

Basic Detail Report



Greek Stater, Tarentum

Date

272 B.C.E. - 235 B.C.E.

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Greek (Ancient)

Medium

Silver

Description

Tarentum, or Taras, now modern day Taranto, Italy, was founded as a Greek colony in the 8th century B.C.E. in the region of southern Italy known as Magna Graecia. On its obverse, this coin depicts the symbol of Tarentum; a man seated on a dolphin, holding a kantharos in his right hand and a cornucopia in his left. Sometimes this man is identified as Phalanthos, the divine leader of the Spartan Partheniae and legendary founder of Tarentum. He

is also sometimes identified as Taras, the son of Poseidon and another legenday founder of Tarentum. Coins from Tarentum are often referred to as “dolphin rider” coins due to this iconography. On its reverse, this coin depicts a man riding a horse and holding a shield. 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: 11/16 in. (1.8 cm)