

STEVEN BATTELLE

Certificate of Authenticity

This coin has been personally inspected and determined to be an authentic ancient coin .
If deemed a forgery by the ACCS, IGC, NGC, or PCGS, it may be
returned at any time for a refund of the purchase price.



Aegina, ca 480-457 BC, AR Stater

Bo82721 / Uo4081 12.2 Gm 22 mm

Obv: smooth-shelled sea turtle iwth thin collar in high relief Rev: Union Jack incuse punch Aegina mint
HGC 6, 447. NGC Cert 20161039-090

The city of Aegina located on the Saronic Gulf island of the same name appears to have been the first European city to mint coins of any type, starting circa 550 BC. From earliest times the maritime city placed a sea turtle on the obverse of its coins, with a simple abstract incuse punch on the reverse. These "turtles" soon circulated widely and impressed neighboring Athens enough that it began striking its own silver coins a few decades later. The sea turtle on Aeginetan coins underwent a slow evolution as the decades past, with a brief divergence in the mid-sixth century of depicting a land tortoise with a segmented shell. The final form of the sea turtle was circa 480-457 BC, after the Aeginetan navy distinguished itself at the Battle of Salamis: A robust creature with a collar and a row of dots running down the otherwise smooth shell. After about 450 BC the obverse type switched permanently to a land tortoise, perhaps reflecting the eclipse of Aegina's naval power by nearby Athens.

