

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
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Macedon, Alexander the Great, 336-323 BC, AV Stater

B078722 / U02818 8.7 Gm 17 mm

Obv: Head of Athena facing right, wearing a crested Corinthian helmet decorated with a serpent, Rev: Nike standing left, holding a wreath and a stylis, eagle below left wing, a control monogram below right wing, Price 797 var

The obverse depicts a strong and beautiful Athena, goddess of wisdom and warfare, who would eventually morph into Roma, the patron goddess of Rome. The reverse depicts Nike, goddess of victory, with spectacular body-length wings, who would eventually morph into a Christian angel. Athena wears a crested Corinthian helmet, which may have been chosen as an allusion to Alexander's position as head of the Corinthian League and his hegemony over Greece. Athena's helmet is pushed backward, with the eye holes and nose piece at the top of her head. In combat, the helmet would be pushed forward, covering the soldier's face.

The Corinthian helmet is the most common helmet to appear on ancient Greek coins, also appearing on among other coins Corinthian staters and Mesembrian diobols, followed by the Attic helmet, appearing most commonly on Athenian Owls. The crest of the Corinthian helmet, when it had a crest, was made of horse hair, with bristly short hair at the top and long tail hair at the end, as illustrated on these coins. The helmet on these coins is typically ornamented with a coiled snake, a symbol of Athena, which is typically the coin's highpoint and the first area to show wear.

Nike wears a diadem (headband) and long chiton (tunic). Alexander's Nike may have been based on the Nike of the coins of Olympia, where she symbolized victory at the games held there. Another possibility, as with Athena, is that Nike was modeled after statuary at the Athenian Acropolis, in this case the small gold Nike statues there.

