

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.



Ionia, Ephesos, ca 500-420 BC, AR Hemidrachm

Bo81634 / U03645 1.9 Gm 13 mm

Obv. Bee with curved wings; tendrils above. Rev. Quadripartite incuse square. SNG von Aulock 1824; BMC 12.

Greek cities often used animals as identifying symbols on their coins. For this purpose Ephesus used both the bee and the deer. The deer is an animal sacred to Artemis, and Artemis was Ephesus' patron goddess just as Athena held this role at Athens. The popular Greek image of Artemis was as a huntress, and she can be shown riding a deer, in a chariot drawn by deer, subduing a stag with her bare hands, or with a little deer at her feet. The bee was associated with Ephesus for many reasons. According to the writer Philostratos, the Athenians who came to colonize Ionia, where Ephesus is located, were led by the Muses, who took the shape of bees. Artemis' priestesses were called melissai or "bees" of the goddess, and were directed by "king bees", priests who served a year-long term under strict rules of purity. The ancient Greeks and Romans didn't realize that the leader of a beehive is a queen, not a king. Alternately, according to the historians Strabo and Pausanias writes that city was named after an Amazon queen called Apasas that meant "bee" in native Anatolian spoken language of Hittites. The two Greek letters, epsilon and phi, on either side of the bee are an abbreviation for Ephesus.

