

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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Thrace, Lysimachos 288-282 BC, AR Tetrachm

Bo81991 / U02409 16.9 Gm 31 mm

Obv: head of the deified Alexander the Great with horn of Ammon Rev: Athena Nikephoros seated left, left arm resting on shield, spear behind, caduceus with handle in left field. EY monogram in right field. Muller 102 SNG Cop 113. Very Fine

Lysimachos was originally a bodyguard of Alexander the Great and seized Thrace as his kingdom during the period of confusion following the death of Alexander in 323 BC. In 305 BC he took the title of king and extended his rule over much of Asia Minor. His kingdom was lost, however, in 281 BC after his defeat at Korupedion by Seleukos of Syria. Of great historic and numismatic importance is the fact that this coin is among the very few types which scholars have identified as featuring an actual portrait of Alexander the Great. He is depicted here wearing the horn of Ammon as symbolic of his posthumous deification. It also features a mythological scene of the goddess Athena enthroned holding Nike, goddess of victory, in her outstretched hand. During his lifetime, Alexander personally appointed only a few artists to render his image, and famous names such as the sculptor Lysippos and the painter Apelles were associated with his portraiture. Though none of the famous lifetime images have been recovered, many sculptures in different materials, as well as portraits carved on gemstones survive. These were, for the most part, produced after Alexander's death and while the portraits follow similar general characteristics, they also vary in style. Alexander was always shown clean-shaven, which was an innovation: all previous portraits of Greek statesmen or rulers were depicted bearded. This new royal fashion lasted for nearly five hundred years with almost all of the Hellenistic kings and Roman emperors until Hadrian being portrayed beardless.

