

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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Mysia, Pergamon, 76-67 BC, AR Cistophoric Tetradrachm.

Bo82254 / U03416 12.5 Gm 28 mm

Obv: Cista mystica with serpent crawling out, all surrounded by Dionysiac ivy wreath Rev: Bow and bowcase surrounded by two serpents; in left field and above, monograms; in right field, serpent entwined thyrso to right.

Cistophori coins referred to the cista, or mystical baskets, used in the worship of Bacchus (or Dionysos), in this region of the ancient world which is now in Western Turkey. . In its original sense the term of cistophorus and cistophora were applied to him or her who carried the cista, which enclosed the sacred serpent. Amongst the Greeks it was the custom for young girls of high rank to bear this mystic chest at public festivals. The medals called cistophori were coined by authority in reference to the feasts of Bacchus, and became the peculiar symbol of Asia. Cistophori coins were first struck by King Eumenes II of Pergammon in 166 BCE and it became the principal denomination of coinage in Asia Minor for almost 300 years. The ordinary types of the cistophori are on the obverse a half-opened chest, or basket, with a serpent issuing from it, the whole surrounded by a crown of ivy and vine leaves. -- The reverse presents a quiver, near which is seen a bow, surrounded by two serpents, with their tails interlaced. The bow case likely refers to the founding legend of the first king of Pergammon, Telephos, who was purported to be a son of Hercules.

