

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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Sikyon 360-330 BC AR Hemidrachm

Bo82605/U04041 2.6 Gm 16 mm

Obv.: Chimera standing to left, Greek letters SI below Rev.: Dove flying to left, tN and pellet in right field.

Reference: SG 2774

In ancient Greece, Sykyon was to artists what Athens was to statesmen and philosophers, and what Sparta was to athletes and soldiers. Sykyon, under her various names, was the cradle of Western art. The region claims the birthplace of numerous art forms including several accomplished sculptors who profoundly influenced the arts, the birth of dramatic tragedy in the 7th century BC and the art of painting, in its present form, developed in Sykyon and spread to the whole of Greece from this small place. And, according to tradition, it was here that Prometheus brought fire to mankind. While Sykyon was not the first of the Greek city states to mint coins, she was one of the most productive. From c. 500 B.C. till about 150 B.C., the time of the Roman conquest, Sykyon minted thousands of coins each year. Nearly all of these bore the symbol of the dove, the main emblem of the city of Sykyon. Most often, the dove is on the front, and on the reverse is the chimera, the fire-breathing monster with the lion's body, snake's tail and goat's head. The chimera was slain by Bellerophon with the aid of Apollo, the main deity of Sykyon. About 280 B.C., Sykyon joined forces with other Greek city states in the Achaean League, a political alliance of twelve city states that flourished under the leadership of Aratus, leader of Sykyon. The cities of the Achaean League agreed to a standard of coinage - coins which bear on the front the head of Zeus wearing an olive wreath, and on the reverse, the symbol of the Achaean League with the symbol of the city which minted the coins beneath it. Sykyon's coins of that time, of course, bore the dove. After the Achaean League, the coins of Sykyon never regained their chimera. Sykyon, according to the geographer Strabo, was the first settlement of Achaean Ionians in Greece. The name "Sykyon" with which the city was known for most of its history, according to Pausanias, was given from Sykyon of Attica, who married Zeuxippe, daughter of king Lamedon, and became king of the city.

