



LYCIA: PHASELIS

400-301 BC 4TH CENTURY AR STATER NGC MS 4/5 - 4/5



Lycia was a geopolitical region in Anatolia on what is now the southern coast of Turkey. Known to history since the records of ancient Egypt and the Hittite Empire in the Late Bronze Age, it was populated by speakers of the Luwian language group. Written records began to be inscribed in stone in the Lycian language after Lycia's involuntary incorporation into the Achaemenid Empire in the Iron Age. At that time (546 BC) the Luwian speakers were decimated, and Lycia received an influx of Persian speakers. In the 4th century BC, Phaselis was the most important harbor city in eastern Lycia along the southern coast of Asia Minor. Its nautical roots ran deep, having been founded by colonists from the seafaring city of Rhodes in the 7th century BC. Originally independent, it was captured by the Persians in the 5th century BC, but their rule was only nominal and Phaselis retained its own currency and, apparently, fleet.

The city was "liberated" by Alexander the Great in circa 330 BC and later placed under Ptolemaic and Rhodian hegemony. Its coinage of the fourth century BC has a heavy nautical theme, as evidenced by this attractive issue and the following six lots.

LYCIA. Phaselis. Ca. 4th century BC. AR stater (23mm, 10.32 gm, 2h). Prow of galley right with fighting platform, gunwale decorated with eye / ΦΑΣΗ above galley stern to left. Heipp-Tamer Series 6.

