



ANCIENTS: IONIA

470 BC AR STATER NGC CH XF 5/5 - 3/5



Teos or Teo was an ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia, on a peninsula between Chytrium and Myonnesus. It was founded by Minyans from Orchomenus, Ionians and Boeotians, but the date of its foundation is unknown.

Teos was a flourishing seaport with two fine harbours until Cyrus the Great invaded Lydia and Ionia (c. 540 BC). During the times of the Roman emperors, the town was noted for its wine, a theatre and Temple of Dionysus. It was the birthplace of Anacreon the poet, Hecateus the historian, Protagoras the sophist, Scythinus the poet, Andron the geographer, Antimachus the epic poet and Apellicon, the preserver of the works of Aristotle.

T-H-I-O-N (N retrograde), griffin seated right on ground line, jaws open, tongue protruding, left foreleg raised; over an egg and dart frieze, ivy leaf upward to right / Quadripartite incuse square. Balcer -. Extremely rare and possibly unique. Unpublished die version as this coin is believed to be unique. Gorgeous style griffin on ample flan.

The griffin, griffon, or gryphon is a legendary creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. As the lion was traditionally considered the king of the beasts and the eagle was the king of the birds, the griffin was thought to be an especially powerful and majestic creature. Griffins are normally known for guarding treasure and well valued priceless possession. **Exceedingly rare or possibly unique.**

