

# ***THE LAST COIN OF ANCIENT GREECE***

## **Apollo, Athena and the Thessalian League**



**Thessalian Confederacy Ca. 196-146 BC**



**Order Code: THESSALIANBOX**

The Thessalian League was an ancient confederation of city-states in Northern Greece, a land rich in mythological significance. Achilles and Jason were born in Thessaly, Centaurs called it home, and its people are said to be descended from the great warrior Heracles.

Independent for centuries, the area fell under Macedonian rule in 344 BCE. The Romans took Thessaly in 197 BCE, defeating Philip V of Macedon, and established an autonomous protectorate. It was appropriate that the *new* Thessalian League chose to honor two mainstays of Greek mythology on this, treasured coin: Apollo, the God of the Sun, and Pallas Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and War.

Freedom for Thessalian Greeks was short-lived, however. In 148 BCE, Andriskos, the last King of Macedon, re-conquered Thessaly, only to be overthrown once again by the Romans, who prevailed in the Fourth Macedonian War. Rome subsequently annexed Thessaly, reducing all of northern Greece to a mere province—a final indignity heaped upon the ashes of what was arguably history’s most influential ancient culture, signaling the end of a golden age.

The legendary advanced artistry and superb metal-craft of Greek coins is clearly illustrated in this coin--still in remarkably good condition more than 2,000 years after striking, and a final, enduring testament to the remarkable ancient Greek culture.

This coin was struck for the newly independent Thessalian League at the mint in the City of Larissa, circa 196-146 BCE. The obverse of the coin portrays a laureate head of Apollo facing right. The reverse shows the inscription ΘΕΣΣΑ / ΑΩΝ flanking Athena Itonia, brandishing a spear and holding a shield. The magistrate’s name is often found above the spear.

### **Data:**

Diameter: 17-22 mm

Weight: 4.7-9 grams

Box measures: 3.87" X 3.87" X 1.25"

*All coins in each set are protected in an archival capsule and beautifully displayed in a mahogany-like box. The box set is accompanied with a story card, certificate of authenticity, and a black embossed gift box.*

*Coin type and grade may vary somewhat from image*