

[Guide to Ancient Greek Coins of Thessaly Central Greece](#)

List of the cities in Thessaly which issued coins in ancient times and a collection of coins from the area



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rjIAGU3coI>

The goal of this guide is to share the information about the types of ancient Greek coins that were struck by the Greek towns of the area in central Greece known as Thessaly. With the list you can see below, you can use to search my store by clicking on the term, or printed out as a check-list to help you put together a coin collection from the area. With the video and the list of coins along with pictures and descriptions of them, you too, can become an expert in these types of coins. Some of the cities just issued bronze coins, others issued gold silver and bronze types.

The most comprehensive book on the subject is Handbook of Ancient Greek Coins Volume 4 by Oliver D. Hoover. The other book to get is the [Volume I](#) and [Volume II](#) of Ancient Greek Coins and Their Values by David R. Sear. You can also see pictures and descriptions of coins from Thessaly for research purposes [at this research site](#), by scrolling to the section on Thessaly with much information about the coin types.

The most prominent town of ancient Thessaly was Larissa, which minted some of the most prolific coin types of that area. Many of the city's coins featured a nymph and a horse. Many of the coins of ancient Thessaly featured horses. Thessaly issued coins into the Roman times, and the types are known as Greek Imperial/ Roman Provincial. Coins discussed in this video include those of Augustus, Claudius and Gallienus.

- [Click here to see all ancient coins of Thessaly](#)
- [Click here to see the coins discussed in the video](#)
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List of The Cities of Ancient Thessaly

[Atrax](#)
[Demetrias](#)

[Dion](#)
[Ekkarra](#)
[Eureoioi](#)
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[Pharos](#)
[Pharsalos](#)
[Pherai](#)
[Pherai](#), Alexander Tyrant of
[Pherai](#), Teisiphon Tyrant of
[Pierasia](#)
[Proerna](#)
[Rhizous](#)
[Skoutoussa](#)
[The Ainians](#)
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[The Malians](#)
[The Oitaians](#)
[The Perrhaibans](#)
[The Thessalian League](#)
[Thebai Phthiotides](#)
[Trikkha](#)
[Tripolis](#)

Examples of Authentic Ancient Greek Coins of Thessaly

See the coins illustrated in the video here. It is great to see what these coins look like and get to appreciate the art and history of them.

LARISSA in THESSALY 356BC

Silver Drachm Nymph Horse

Ancient Greek Coin i47970

[Greek city of Larissa in Thessaly](#)

Silver Drachm 20mm (5.75 grams) Struck circa 356-320 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 453; BCD Thessaly II, lot 280

Pedigree: Ex BCD Collection with his original hand-written tag and photos of this coin

Head of nymph Larissa facing three-quarters left, wearing ampyx.

ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ, Horse grazing right.



This city was named after a local water nymph named Larissa. The story goes that the nymph drowned while playing ball on the banks of the Peneios River. In Greek mythology, the Greek hero Perseus accidentally killed his grandfather, King Akrisios of Argos when participating in the funeral games held in the city for nymph Larissa. The people of that city made their wealth from the rich agricultural area around the city and from breeding horses.

LARISSA in THESSALY 420BC

Silver Drachm HERO vs BULL

Ancient Greek Coin i47972

[Greek city of Larissa in Thessaly](#)

Silver Drachm 20mm (5.72 grams) Struck circa 420-400 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 420; BCD Thessaly II, lot 173-175 and 370.1; ANG Ashmolean 3860

Pedigree: Ex BCD Collection with his original hand-written tag and photos of this coin

Hero (Thessalos or Jason) wrestling a bull.

ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ, Horse grazing right.



This type references taurokathapsia (bull-wrestling) with the depiction of a hero wrestling the bull, which was a sport played at the Taureia games honoring Poseidon Taureios. Jason was the father of Thessalos in a mythological tradition whom in turn was the ancestor of the entire Thessalian people.

Larissa in Thessaly 460BC

Obol

Horse Lion Hydris Ancient Silver

Greek Coin i46757

[Greek city of Larissa in Thessaly](#)

Silver Obol 12mm (0.72 grams) Struck circa 460-400



B.C.

Reference: BCD Thessaly II 358.1

Horse prancing right; above, head of lion right.

Larissa standing right, balancing hydria on raised knee; to left, lion's head fountain right, from which water pours forth; Λ A RI around from upper left; all within incuse square.

LARISSA in THESSALY 462BC Obol Bull Horse Ancient Silver Greek Coins i46360

[Greek city of Larissa in Thessaly](#)

Silver Obol 11mm (0.94 grams) Struck circa 462-460 B.C.

Reference: BCD Thessaly II 147; Liampi, Corpus 15i (V7/R9)

Head and neck of bull left, turning to face viewer.

ΛA (retrograde) downward to right, head and neck of bridled horse right; all within incuse square.



Larissa in Thessaly 350BC RARE Authentic Ancient Greek Coin Nymph Horse i42111

[Greek city of Larissa in Thessaly](#)

Bronze 18mm (7.42 grams) Struck 350-325 B.C.

Reference: Sear 2132 var., B.M.C. 7. 86.

Head of nymph Larissa three-quarter face to left, wearing necklace; hair confined by fillet and floating loosely, with ampyx in front.

ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ. - Thessalian horseman right, holding spear, horse prancing; beneath, Σ.



LARISSA Thessaly THESSALIAN LEAGUE 196BC Athena Apollo Greek Coin i43487

[Greek city of Larissa in Thessaly](#)

under [Thessalian League](#)

Bronze 19mm (6.61 grams) Struck 196-27 B.C.

Hippolochos, magistrate.

Reference: Rogers 21; SNG Copenhagen 315

Laureate head of Apollo right.

ΘΕΣΣΑ/ΛΩΝ, Athena Itonia striding right, hurling spear held in her right hand, shield on her left arm; above spear; ΠΙΠΙ-ΟΛΟ; A to left; to right, P above I.



PHARSALOS in THESSALY **400BC Athena Horse Authentic** **Ancient Greek Coin i49251**

Greek city of [Pharsalos](#) in Thessaly

Bronze 15mm (3.40 grams) Struck circa 400-344 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 654; Sear 2196; Rogers 485-487;

BCD Thessaly II, 653, 666.2

Head of Athena left in close-fitting crested Attic helmet ornamented with figure of Skylla.

ΦΑΡΣ, Helmeted cavalryman charging right on horseback, brandishing flail upon which bird perches.



One of the more important towns of Thessaly, Pharsalos was built on the northern slopes of Mt. Narthakios. It was the scene of Caesar's famous victory over Pompey in 48 B.C.

PHARSALOS in THESSALY **400BC Athena Horseman Footman** **Ancient Greek Coin i49255**

Greek city of [Pharsalos](#) in Thessaly

Bronze 21mm (9.17 grams) Struck circa 400-344 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 646; Sear 2193 var.; Rogers 503-504; BCD Thessaly II, 671.3-4

Head of Athena three-quarter face to left, wearing triple-crested Corinthian helmet.

ΦΑΡΣ, Helmeted cavalryman charging right on horseback, brandishing flail; bird perches on helmet; footman advancing right, behind, carrying flail over shoulder.



PHARSALOS in THESSALY **400BC Athena Horse Authentic** **Ancient Greek Coin i49216**

Greek city of [Pharsalos](#) in Thessaly

Bronze 12mm (1.58 grams) Struck circa 400-344 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 655; Sear 2197; Weber 2912; BCD
Thessaly I, lot 1286;
BCD Thessaly II, lots 649 and 654
Head of Athena in Attic helmet right adorned with
Snylla.
ΦΑΡΣ, Head of horse right.



**SKOTUSSA Thessaly 400BC
Hercules Horse Rare Ancient
Silver Greek Coin i22382**

Greek city of [Skotussa](#) in Thessaly
Silver Trihemiobol 12mm (1.00 grams) Struck 400-367
B.C.
Reference: Sear 2219 var.
Bearded head of Hercules right, wearing lion's skin.
Forepart of horse right, left leg raised; Σ-KO in lower field.



**Details about SKOTUSSA in
THESSALY 300BC Ares Horse
Authentic Ancient Greek Coin
i49475**

Greek city of [Skotussa](#) in Thessaly
Bronze 20mm (5.32 grams) Struck 300-200 B.C.
Reference: HGC 4, 615; Sear 2223
Head of Ares right, in close-fitting helmet ornamented
with plume.
ΣΚΟΤΟΥΣ / ΣΑΙΩΝ above and below horse prancing right.



**Details about KRANNON in
THESSALY 400BC Horseman
Hydria Authentic Ancient Greek
Coin i49156**

Greek city of [Krannon](#) in Thessaly
Bronze 15mm (4.87 grams) Struck circa 400-344 B.C.
Reference: Sear 2073 var.; HGC 4, 385
Horseman galloping right.



Hydria, mounted on wheels.

The city was near the source of the river Onchestos. People of Krannon held Poseidon in high regard. The city derived its name from the various springs in the area (called kranna in Aiolic Greek). The city had an abundance of sheep and horses grazing in the plains which brought it great wealth. In times of drought, they had a hydria on wheels which they paraded through the city accompanied by prayers to Apollo, which it was famous for. There was also a temple of Athena and Asclepius in the city.

Details about Perrhaioi in Thessaly 450BC Athena Horse Ancient Greek Silver Coin i46721

Greek city of [Perrhaioi](#) in Thessaly
Silver Obol 13mm (0.78 grams) Struck circa 450-400
B.C.

Reference: BCD Thessaly II 551.1

Horse prancing right.

Π-Ε-Ρ-Α, Athena Itonia, holding spear, aegis over arm, advancing right within incuse square.



Details about Larissa Kremaste in Thessaly 300BC ACHILLES Troy Hero Ancient Greek Coin i49349

Greek city of [Larissa Kremaste](#) in Thessaly
Bronze Trichalkon 19mm (5.34 grams) Struck circa 300-
200 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 13; BCD Thessaly II, 403

Head of Achilles left.

ΛΑΠΙ, Thetis riding hippocamp left, charring shield.



Situated in the south of Thessaly, Larissa Kremaste was built on a height, hence its name. It was taken by Demetrios Poliorketes in 302 B.C., during his invasion of Thessaly. The myth goes that Achilles, the tragic hero of the Trojan war was born in the city and ruled a part of its dominions. Larissa Kremaste was also the city that Perseus visited on his exile from Argos. Thetis was the mother of Achilles, who is shown on coins from the city to be delivering weapons to him that were forged by the smith god, Hephaistos.

Details about MOPSION Thessaly 350BC MOPSUS v CENTAUR RARE Authentic Ancient Greek Coin i46547

Greek city of [Mopsion](#) in Thessaly
Bronze Trichalkon 22mm (8.53 grams) Struck circa 2nd
half of the 4th century B.C.

Reference: Sear 2154

Head of Zeus three-quarter face to right; thunderbolt in field to right.

ΜΟΨΕΙΩΝ, The Lapith Mopsons, naked, standing facing, wielding club about to strike Centaur rearing left, holding boulder over head with both hands.



**Details about Greek city of
Perrhaiboi in Thessaly Authentic
Ancient Coin 2ndCenBC Zeus
i42044**



Greek city of [Perrhaiboi](#) in Thessaly
Bronze Trichalkon 22mm (6.35 grams) Struck Late 2nd
to early 1st century B.C.

Reference: Rogers 440; SNG Copenhagen 197; BCD Thessaly II 561; SNG Alpha bank 194ff

Laureate and bearded head of Zeus right.

ΠΕΡΡΑΙΒΩΝ, Hera, diademed and draped, seated right on backless throne, holding long scepter with her right and resting her left on her knee.

**Details about GYRTON in
THESSALY 400BC Zeus Cult
Horse Authentic Ancient Greek
Coin i37414**



Greek city of [Gyrtion](#) in Thessaly
Bronze 20mm (6.86 grams) Struck 400-344 B.C.

Reference: Sear 2089; B.M.C. 7.5

Laureate head of Zeus left.

ΓΥΡΤΩΝΙΩΝ, Horse trotting left; ΠΙΜ monogram below.

**Details about PHALANNA in
THESSALY 350BC Ares Nymph
Authentic Ancient Greek Coin
i49209**



Greek city of [Phalanna](#) in Thessaly
Bronze 17mm (4.06 grams) Struck circa 350-325 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 175; Sear 2180; BCD Thessaly I, lot
1255; BCD Thessaly II, lots 578-580 and 591 3-8

Head of Ares right.

ΦΑΛΑΝΝΑΙΩΝ, Head of nymph Phalanna right, hair in sakkos.

**Details about PHAKION in
THESSALY 350BC Persephone
Horseman RARE Ancient Greek
Coin i49477**

Greek city of [Phakion](#) in Thessaly



Bronze 19mm (5.73 grams) Struck circa 300-200 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 542 (R1); Sear 2176; Papevangelou 1996, nos. 1-42; BCD Thessaly I, lot 1249; BCD Thessaly II, lot 566; B.M.C. 7.1,2

Head of Persephone right, wreathed with grain.

ΦΑΚΙΑΣΤΩΝ, Horseman trotting right, right hand raised.

HALOS in THESSALY 302BC Zeus Phrixos on GOLDEN Ram RARE Greek Coin i49230

Greek city of [Halos](#) in Thessaly

Bronze 14mm (1.40 grams) Struck circa 302-265 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 8 (R1); BCD Thessaly II, lot 86.2

Laureate head of Zeus right.

ΑΛΕΩΝ, Phrixos riding ram right.



Where Halos was originally located is unknown, however it is known that to have been located in the northern Achaia Phthiotis and overlooked Crocus Field. The myth of the city starts at the Haelean temple of Zeus Lpahystios where the twins Helle and Phrixos were to be sacrificed, when a golden-fleeced flying ram was sent to rescue them by their mother, the nymph Nephele. King Athamas of Boiotia, was the father of Helle and Phrixos and was believed to have been the founder of the city. At the end of the Third Sacred War, in 346 B.C. the city was destroyed by the Macedonian general Parmenion. In 302 B.C. the city was re-founded, but this time closer to the sea coast by either Kassander or his rival Demetrios Poliorketes, rivals for the Macedonian throne. By around 265 B.C. the city was abandoned ostensibly due to a bad earthquake.

Greek city of [Pelinna](#) in Thessaly

Bronze 15mm (2.86 grams) Struck circa 400-344 B.C.

Reference: HGC 4, 284; Sear 2166 var. (horseman right)

Helmeted cavalryman charging left on horseback, spearing fallen hoplite.

ΠΕΛΛΙΝΑΕΙ, Thessalian peltast advancing left, brandishing javelin and holding shield and javelin.



Greek city of [Demetrias](#) in Thessaly

Federal Coinage of The Magnetes

Bronze 20mm (6.20 grams) Struck 196-146 B.C.

Reference: Sear 2138; B.M.C. 7.11

Laureate head of Zeus left.
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΩΝ, Centaur standing right, right hand held before him, holding branch in left; plough to left, ΗΔ monogram below.



**Details about LAMIA in
THESSALY 325BC Athena
Philoktetes Trojan War Archer
Greek Coin i49224**

Greek city of [Lamia](#) in Thessaly
Issuing in the name of the Malians (also known as the Malienses)

Bronze Chalkous 15mm (1.50 grams) Struck circa 325-300 B.C.
Reference: Sear 2142; Georgiou, Mint 16; Rogers (Malia) 384; BCD Thessaly II 125; HGC 4, 106
Helmeted head of Athena right.
ΜΑΛΙΕΩ, Philoktetes right, shooting arrow at bird falling to right; quiver to lower right.



**Details about PEUMA in
THESSALY 302BC Achilles
Trojan War Troy Hero Ancient
Greek Coin i49485**

Greek city of Peuma in Thessaly
Bronze Chalkous 12mm (1.88 grams) Struck circa 302-286 B.C.
Reference: Rogers 442; BCD Thessaly II 565
Wreathed head of Achilles right.
ΠΕΥΜΑΤΙΩΝ around AX monogram; Phrygian helmet to right.



Details about Pherai in Thessaly

TYRANT Teisiphon 358BC Bull Horse Ancient Greek Coin i49345

Greek city of [Pherai](#) in Thessaly
Teisiphon - Tyrant of Pherai: 358-354 B.C.
Bronze Chalkous 15mm (2.22 grams)
Reference: HGC 4; 585; Sear 2214; Rogers 530; BCD
Thessaly I, lot 1316; BCD Thessaly II, lots 709-710
Forepart of bull right, head facing.
TEΙΣΙΦΟΝΟΥ, forepart of horse prancing right.



Teisiphon was the brother of Thebe who was the wife of the previous tyrant, Alexander. Thebe opened the door to Alexander's bedchamber. Teisiphon's two brothers held Alexander down while Teisiphon finished him off with his sword. Through bribery, Teisiphon was able to get the support of Alexander's mercenaries, which they used to destroy the political opposition to his reign. Then he became the tyrant of the city, although he may have been a puppet of his sister Thebe. Teisiphon was succeeded by two further tyrants, whom were eventually overthrown by Philip II, king of Macedon.

Situated west of Mt. Pelion, Pherai was the second city of Thessaly, after Larissa. In the 4th Century B.C. its tyrants extended their power over most of the region.

Details about AUGUSTUS 27BC Thessaly Koinon ATHENA Authentic Ancient Roman Coin RARE i47217

Augustus - Roman Emperor: 27 B.C. - 14 A.D.
Bronze Diassarion 22mm (10.46 grams) of Thessaly,
[Koinon of Thessaly](#)

Megalokles, strategos, and Arist-, tamias(?)

Reference: Burrer Em. 2, Series 2, 69 (A17/R58); BCD Thessaly I 1398; RPC I 1428

ΣΕΒΑΣ-ΤΟΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΩΝ, laureate head right

ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΟΥ Μ-ΕΓΓΑΛΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΑΡΙΣΤ, Athena Itonia striding right, hurling spear held in right hand, shield on her left arm; monogram to right.



Details about CLAUDIUS 41AD Koinon of Thessaly Thessalian

League Athena Roman Coin i42048 Rare



Claudius - Roman Emperor: 41-54 A.D. -
Bronze Diassarion 24mm (7.57 grams) of THESSALY,

[Koinon of Thessaly](#)

Antigonos, strategos

Reference: RPC 1435-1436; Burrell Em. 1, Series 3, Grp. 1a, 43 corr. (A15/R34; rev. legend)

ΘΕΣΣΑΛΩΝ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΗΩΝ, Bare head of Augustus right.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΟΥ ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΟΥ, Athena Itonia striding right, hurling spear held in her right hand, shield on her left arm; monogram in left field.

Details about GALLIENUS 253AD Koinon of Thessaly Athena Authentic Ancient Roman Coin i49342



Gallienus - Roman Emperor: 253-268 A.D. -
Bronze Tetrassarion 25mm (10.33 grams) of [Koinon of Thessaly](#) in Thessaly

Reference: Sear GIC 4530 var.; Burrell, MA-G 53; BCD Thessaly II 991.2-991.3

ΑΥΤ. ΓΑΛΛΗΝΟΥ ΑΥΓ, Radiate, draped, and cuirassed bust right.

ΚΟΙΝΟΝ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΩΝ, Athena Itonia striding right, hurling spear with right hand, shield on left arm; Δ (mark of value) to left.



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Article by [Ilya Zlobin](#), world-renowned expert numismatist, enthusiast, author and dealer in authentic ancient Greek, ancient Roman, ancient Byzantine coins and beyond.

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