

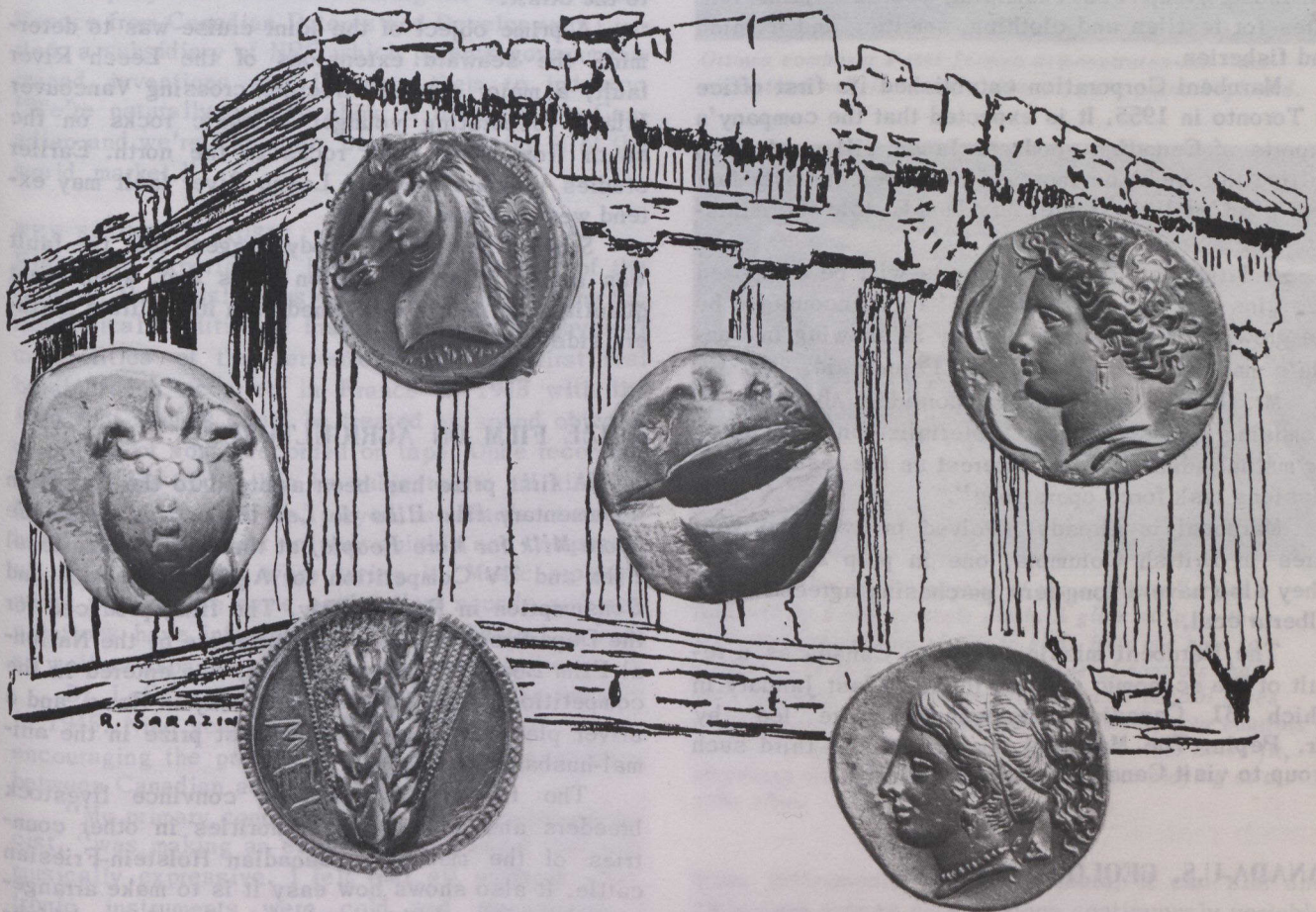
GREEK COINS AT ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

An important collection of Greek coins is now on view at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. The display, comprising 561 coins out of a total collection of 1,600, is representative of various Greek cities and colonies of antiquity on the Mediterranean. Most of the pieces are silver.

These coins, which were all hand-struck between 660 B.C. and Roman times, are works of art. Engravers of coin dies were often very skilled artists and the coins of some cities, such as Syracuse, bore the

names of the artists. A series of magnified photos clearly shows the craftsmanship of the engravers.

Among the collection are two coins from Aegina, the first city of Greece proper to issue coins. Aegina's civic badge was the turtle, the emblem of the local goddess Aphrodite Urania, which can clearly be seen on the front or obverse side of the coin. A chisel-cut on the second coin shows that someone was sceptical of the goddess's guarantee that the silver was pure right through.



Stater from Aegina. Sea-turtle. About 550-456 B.C.
(Extreme left)

Tetradrachm (4-drachma piece) of Carthaginian origin,
from Sicily. About 410-310 B.C. (Top left)

Stater from Metapontum in Lucania, Southern Italy. Ear of
barley. About 550-480 B.C. (Bottom left)

Stater (20-drachma piece) of Aegina. Chisel-cut clearly
shown. About 650-600 B.C. (Centre)

Silver dekadrachm (110-drachma piece) from the Greek
colony of Syracuse, Sicily, dating from about 395-370
B.C. Head of Persephone (Top right)

Drachm of Corinth. Head of Aphrodite 350-338 B.C.
(Bottom right)