

This is a coin in the Great North Museum. It is from Athens. What do you think it shows on the *obverse* (front)? This is the goddess Athena. She is the goddess of war and wears a helmet.



What can you see on the *reverse* (back)? Here we have an owl and a sprig of olive. These were associated with Athena. Her gift to the city of Athens was an olive tree and olive oil was an important product for Athens.



You can also see the first three letters of the names of Athena and of Athens, they are in Greek. The coin is a tetradrachm. The coin is silver which comes from the mines at Laureion about 50 km away from Athens. Lots of slaves worked in the mines.