

**ANCIENT GREEK  
COINS: VOLUME II,  
PARTS V-X. SYRACUSE**

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Ancient Greek Coins: Volume II, Parts V-X. Syracuse by Frank Sherman Benson

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# ANCIENT GREEK COINS

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VOLUME II

PARTS V-X. SYRACUSE

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BY

FRANK SHERMAN BENSON



PRIVATELY PRINTED

1901-2

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A CABINET OF GREEK COINS.

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BEHOLD portrayed in miniature, yet clear,  
The changing seasons of Hellenic art;  
Fair spring-time, when dim, haunting visions start  
Forth into life, and forms divine appear;  
Full, radiant summer, when a heaven-born skill  
Achieves such height as man ne'er more can gain;  
Drear autumn of decay, wherein remain  
Mere phantoms which a glimmering twilight fill.  
Here too the Olympic pantheon displays  
Pure, grand ideals of each dreaded god,  
Or cherished goddess, or loved nymph enshrined.  
With likeness too of many a king whose nod  
Could empires shake. Thus various-hued we find  
A rich emblazonry of ancient days.

337887





# ANCIENT GREEK COINS

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V  
SYRACUSE, SICILY

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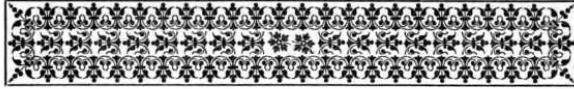
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1901



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## ANCIENT GREEK COINS.

### V. SYRACUSE, SICILY.



TRIANGULAR Sicily, lying midway in the great inland sea, and stretching across from Europe well-nigh to Africa, by reason of its size, its situation, and its varied historical associations, far surpasses in interest and importance all other Mediterranean islands. Mountainous throughout its entire extent, peak rising beyond peak to culminate at last in the mighty height of snow-capped Ætna, it was yet of such fertility in countless plains and valleys as to have been called in later days the granary of Rome and the garden of the Mediterranean. Inhabited for the vague centuries before the eighth by Sikans, Sikels<sup>1</sup> and Elymians of fabled Trojan origin, Trinakria (the three-promontoried) was earlier sung by Homer as the mysterious land which witnessed the sufferings of wandering Odysseus, beset by Skylla and Charybdis, by Polyphemos and the giants. Hither from Crete, in yet more distant times, Daidalos soaring on cunningly devised wings had fled before the wrath of King Minos, who followed in swift pursuit to meet his death, leaving the skilled artificer to build for his Sikan host strong cities, massive treasuries, and above all, the holy temple on the Elymian mount.

<sup>1</sup> Whence came successive names, *Sycaria*, *Sycelias*, *Sicilia*, Sicily.