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Augustus As With The Altar Of The Three Gauls -- Certificate Of Authenticity



200 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

As of C. Iulius Caesar Augustus (27 BC - AD 14), large bronze struck at Lugdunum (Lyon), dated to the coinage of 10-6 BC in digital corpora and typological syntheses, celebrated for its reverse depicting the Ara Trium Galliarum (federal altar of Rome and Augustus), one of the most emblematic "civic" types of Augustan Gaul.

Analysis & expertise
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: the visual examination highlights a large-module bronze with an overall homogeneous reddish-brown patina, with diffuse micro-porosity and a few surface asperities compatible with prolonged circulation and an ancient evolution of the metal. The edge shows natural flan irregularities (slight peripheral

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Mobile : 0618813344

58 rue monceau

Paris 75008

undulations), with a partially preserved rim and areas where the relief fades toward the periphery, a common phenomenon on asses struck at Lugdunum in this period. Within the strict limits of what observation allows to be established, the whole remains consistent with an ancient struck bronze, with no immediately discordant typological element (style/lettering/composition) when compared to the reference descriptions.

Obverse
Type: laurelled head of Augustus right, with firm modeling (forehead, brow ridge, nose, and chin legible), and a laurel wreath whose leaves remain perceptible despite wear.
Legend: the reading appears in segments around the circumference; the overall arrangement corresponds to the CAESAR PONT MAX type (a presentation variant frequently encountered depending on centering and preservation), which accords with the attribution RIC I?2; 230.
Under raking light, the hierarchy of reliefs (cheek/temple/laurel) can still be distinguished; wear is generally even, without an abrupt break between fields and reliefs.

Reverse
Exergual legend: ROM ET AVG, clearly structured at the bottom of the field, consistent with the Lugdunum type.
Representation: frontal elevation of the altar of Lugdunum, rendered as an architectured monument: rectangular base, central relief decoration, and lateral framing. On either side, two columns surmounted by Victories turned inward, arms raised holding a wreath, the other hand carrying a palm (attributes still perceptible despite wear). The whole corresponds to the canonical description: a "richly decorated" altar with symbolic elements (corona civica/laurels/stylized figures according to the described variants).
The scene retains a structured reading: the architecture remains identifiable, and the

composition "altar + columns + Victories + ROM ET AVG" remains sufficiently characteristic for a secure attribution to the type.

Characteristics

Authority: Augustus.
Mint: Lugdunum (Lyon).
Date: 10-6 BC (range given in the corpora for this type).
Denomination: As (Æ), struck.
Metal: bronze.
Obverse: CAESAR PONT MAX, laurelled head of Augustus right.
Reverse: ROM ET AVG, richly decorated altar of Lugdunum (Ara Trium Galliarum), Victories flanking the altar on columns.
Diameter: 27 mm (as provided).
Weight: 10.25 g (as provided).
Primary reference: RIC I?2; Augustus 230.

Historical context

The reverse refers to the federal sanctuary of the Three Gauls at Lugdunum, established under Augustus and associated with the cult of Rome and Augustus: a political and religious arrangement intended to federate provincial elites, with an annual meeting of representatives from the Gallic cities. In this perspective, the image of the altar on a widely circulating bronze coin functions as a visual marker of adherence and as an institutional message: Rome (ROM) and Augustus (AVG) are brought together in a short, immediately legible formula that anchors Augustan ideology in the provincial space.

Cultural value

For a collector, this type brings together particularly sought-after qualities:
Large bronze of Lugdunum, a major western mint under Augustus.
"Monumental" reverse of strong historical resonance: the Ara Trium Galliarum is one of the rare provincial monuments so explicitly staged on imperial coinage.

Type very solidly documented (RIC) and easily comparable to reference specimens, reinforcing legibility, traceability, and the coin's patrimonial interest.

Traceability & guarantees

In accordance with our practices, each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity consistent with the standards of the art and heritage market, the study being conducted with careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light.

The coin is offered with a professional European provenance, from an established numismatic circuit; the acquisition falls within a specialized international transaction, carried out within a recognized network and validated by expertise, according to the most demanding practices applicable to heritage objects.

Secure shipping

Careful, secure, and traceable shipping, with protective packaging, insurance, and delivery against signature depending on destination. The exact terms are confirmed at the time of order according to the delivery address and the logistical constraints applicable to cultural goods.