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Antoninus Pius Sestertius "liberalitas Avg V" -- Certificate Of Authenticity



200 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Large bronze (sestertius) of Antoninus Pius, struck at Rome (a period generally given as AD 145-161 for this type), illustrating on the reverse a complete scene of imperial liberality (official distribution) under the legend LIBERALITAS AVG V--a typology especially appreciated by collectors for its highly narrative "institutional" iconography and its solid documentation in the corpora.

Analysis & expertise
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: close examination of both sides highlights a large bronze with a warm-brown / golden-brown patina, with slightly more reddish nuances on the high points and locally duller fields, consistent with an old patina and

Dealer

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prolonged circulation. The surface shows fine, regular granulation with a few diffuse micro-asperities; the edge displays natural flan irregularities and small peripheral weaknesses, frequently encountered on sestertii of this module. Within the strict limits of what observation allows to be established, the overall ensemble (style, arrangement of legends, reliefs, and scene structure) remains consistent with an ancient Rome strike corresponding to the RIC III 775 / BMCRE 1694 type.

Obverse
The expected type is clearly present: laurelled head of Antoninus Pius right, with a full, regular profile. Under raking light, the laurel wreath remains readable in volume (leaves and tie), while the facial modeling (forehead, nasal ridge, chin) stays legible despite generally even wear. The legend ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS IIII appears in segments around the circumference; legibility varies with centering and wear, which is common on large bronzes, without impairing identification of the type.

Reverse
The reverse follows the reference iconographic scheme: LIBERALITAS AVG V, with the emperor seated left on a platform (tribunal), facing Liberalitas standing (holding a counting tablet/abacus and a cornucopia), while a citizen stands to the right in the expected attitude (holding the fold of the toga) before the distribution scene.
Under magnification and raking light, the platform can be distinguished by its architectural lines (base and step), and the principal attributes (abacus, cornucopia, the scene's gestures) remain identifiable, which is decisive for attribution. The S C in the exergue, proper to senatorial bronzes, is consistent with the type.

Characteristics
Authority: Antoninus Pius (Antoninus Pius).

Mint: Rome.
Date: period given as AD 145-161 for this type in the reference descriptions.
Denomination: Sestertius (Æ).
Obverse: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS IIII, laurelled head right.
Reverse: LIBERALITAS AVG V, emperor seated on platform; Liberalitas standing with abacus and cornucopia; citizen at right; S C in exergue.
Weight: 22.4 g.
Diameter: 31 mm.
References (cross bibliography): RIC III 775 ; BMCRE 1694 ; illustrated parallels and market/collection notes: Numista, VCoins.

Historical context
The LIBERALITAS reverse illustrates a central political ritual of the Principate: the official distribution (often referred to as congiarium in the sources), staged to manifest the generosity and fairness of power toward the people. The mention AVG V refers to a fifth liberality counted in the reverse titulature: the numeral is not decorative--it structures the public memory of imperial action.
Under Antoninus Pius, this iconographic language fits within a reign of administrative stability: the sestertius, a coin of high visibility, here serves as a vehicle for a clear civic message, immediately legible through the scene and its attributes.

Cultural value
For a collector, this type brings together three lasting attractions:
A particularly "speaking" narrative iconography, rare within coinages whose reverses often limit themselves to a single isolated deity.
A large module (31 mm) offering a museum-like presence, with a multi-figure scene that is easily documented.
An attribution firmly framed by the corpora (RIC / BMCRE) and by many comparable specimens,

facilitating comparison, traceability, and value within an Antonine ensemble.

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 is conducted with careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light, and is based on typological, stylistic, and metrological coherence, as well as confrontation with available references and parallels.

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

Secure shipping

Careful, secure, and traceable shipping, with protective packaging, insurance, and delivery against signature depending on destination (France / international). The exact terms are confirmed at the time of order according to the delivery address.