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Augustus Denarius With Capricorn -- Certificate Of Authenticity



375 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Silver denarius (AR) of Augustus, attributed to a Spanish mint (often linked to Colonia Patricia in the literature, an attribution that remains debated), struck circa 18-17/16 BC: an emblematic type of Augustan propaganda, with a reverse showing Capricorn holding globe and rudder, and AVGVSTVS in the exergue; major reference RIC 126.

Analysis & expertise
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: examination of both sides reveals a denarius with a silver-gray surface of generally satiny appearance, of even tone, bearing a few circulation micro-marks (fine lines and contact points) consistent with an ancient passage. The flan appears slightly irregular at the periphery

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(natural undulations and small edge weaknesses), without impairing the reading of the determining elements. Within the strict limits of what observation allows to establish, the combined coherence of style, engraving, and typology closely matches the RIC 126 / BMCRE 346 / RSC 21 group, well illustrated by the standard reference parallels.

Obverse
Type: bare head of Augustus right, anepigraphic (without legend), with hair rendered in short locks and a clear nape; the facial modeling (forehead, nasal ridge, lips, and chin) remains legible despite gentle wear on the high points. Under raking light, a clear hierarchy of reliefs can be observed (hair / profile / neck), with relief-to-field transitions consistent with ancient striking on a silver flan.

Reverse
Type: Capricorn right (a creature half-goat/half-marine), holding between its limbs a combined globe + rudder, with a cornucopia carried on the shoulder/back; in the exergue, AVGVSTVS.
The attributes remain identifiable despite wear: the Capricorn's body, tail section, cornucopia, and the "globe-rudder" composition read in volume; the legend AVGVSTVS remains legible and structurally decisive for the attribution.

Characteristics
Authority: Augustus.
Mint: Spanish mint, traditionally proposed as Colonia Patricia (mentioned as a hypothesis in catalogues and specialized sales).
Date: c. 18-17/16 BC.
Denomination: Denarius (AR).
Obverse: bare head of Augustus right, anepigraphic.
Reverse: Capricorn right, holding a globe attached to a rudder; cornucopia on the shoulder; AVGVSTVS in the exergue.

Weight: 3.78 g.
Diameter: 20 mm.
References (cross bibliography): RIC 126 ; BMCRE 346 ; RSC 21 ; comparisons: WildWinds, VCoins, sale archives.

Historical context

Capricorn is among the most famous emblems associated with Augustus in the visual culture of his principate: it refers to an astrological and symbolic language claimed within Augustan circles and widely commented on by ancient tradition and modern historiography (the precise question of which "sign" is intended remaining debated).

The combined reverse attributes--rudder, globe, and cornucopia--form a legible political message: guidance of the world, mastery of spaces (land/sea), and a promise of prosperity, at a time when Augustus' regime presents itself as a force for order and stability after the civil wars.

Cultural value

For a collector, this denarius brings together highly sought-after qualities:

an iconic Augustus type, immediately recognizable (Capricorn + AVGVSTVS);

an iconography of strong historical density (propaganda, astrological symbolism, vocabulary of prosperity);

an attribution firmly framed by the major corpora (RIC / BMCRE / RSC) and easily comparable to many published specimens, facilitating documentation and integration into a collection.

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 documented corpora

and parallels (RIC, BMCRE, RSC, WildWinds, Numista, VCoins).
The coin is offered 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.