PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Trajan Denarius With Aequitas -- Certificate Of Authenticity



250 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Silver denarius (AR) of Trajan (98-117), struck at Rome circa AD 107-108 (the COS V phase), combining an obverse with full military titulature (GER DAC) and a major civic reverse: Aequitas standing, holding scales and a cornucopia, under the official formula OPTIMO PRINCIPI--a sought-after typology for its rare balance between conquest propaganda and a message of justice/good governance.

Analysis & expertise
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: close examination of both sides reveals a denarius with a silver-gray surface and a nuanced cabinet tone (lighter reflections on the reliefs, deeper tone in the fields). The fields show fine micro-granulation and circulation

Dealer

ANTIKARTS
Antiques, artworks, historical curiosities and archaeological items

58 rue monceau
Paris 75008

micro-marks (fine striations, contact points) consistent with an ancient passage. On the obverse, locally darker areas are noted (patina/superficial deposits) without any apparent break in texture; the periphery shows a slightly irregular flan and a few rim weaknesses linked to centering--features frequently encountered on this module. Within the strict limits of what visual observation allows to establish, the whole (portrait style, engraving quality, coherence of legends and iconography) is consistent with the Roman issues of Trajan bearing COS V and the reverse type with standing Aequitas.

Obverse

The type matches the expected model: laurelled head right, with drapery on the opposite shoulder readable in volume under raking light. The laurel wreath can be followed in segments (leaves and ties), and the facial modeling (forehead, nasal ridge, chin) remains well structured despite gentle wear on the high points.

The legend IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P is readable in sequences around the portrait, with legibility varying according to centering and wear; the titulature/portrait combination remains typologically coherent for Trajan in this phase.

Reverse

The reverse presents the reference composition: COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC, with Aequitas standing left, holding scales (attribute of equity/justice) and a cornucopia (prosperity). The figure still stands out clearly: posture, vertical drapery, and arm gesture remain readable under raking light, despite even wear.

The circular legend reads by sections (customary peripheral weakness); the pairing "COS V ... OPTIMO PRINC + standing Aequitas" corresponds to the variant noted in the corpora (Aequitas standing, not seated).

Characteristics

Authority: Trajan (98-117).
Denomination: Denarius (AR).
Mint: Rome.
Date: c. AD 107-108 (COS V issue).
Obverse: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P, laurelled head right, drapery on the opposite shoulder.
Reverse: COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC, Aequitas standing left, holding scales and cornucopia.
Weight: 3.35 g.
References (cross bibliography): BMC 288 ; RIC II 119 var. (Aequitas standing, not seated) ; Cohen 85-86.

Historical context
The titulature GER DAC places the coin within Trajan's cycle of military prestige, while the Aequitas reverse expresses a complementary ideal: the conquering emperor also presents himself as guarantor of fairness, regularity in exchange, and civic stability. The formula OPTIMO PRINCIPI fully participates in this political construction, staging a "best prince" whose power must translate into justice and shared prosperity--language especially characteristic of Trajanic communication.

Cultural value
For a collector, this denarius brings together lasting qualities:
A clearly readable imperial portrait with the full "GER DAC" titulature of strong historical density.
An Aequitas reverse with an immediately legible message (scales / cornucopia), highly sought after within the "OPTIMO PRINCIPI" series.
A typology firmly framed by the major corpora (RIC / BMC / Cohen) and easily comparable to published specimens, facilitating documentation and value within an imperial 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 corpus references (RIC, BMC, Cohen) and documented parallels. 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.