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Gordian III Sestertius "aeternitati Avg" -- Certificate Of Authenticity



200 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Large imperial bronze (Æ sestertius) of Gordian III (Rome, AD 240-244), with the reverse legend AETERNITATI AVG: an issue highly appreciated by collectors for the strength of its iconography (Aeternitas with globe) and for the classic presence of S-C, the institutional signature of Rome's large bronzes.

Analysis & expertise
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: examination of both sides reveals a sestertius with a dominant very dark brown/black patina, nuanced by localized warmer tones (reddish-brown) on certain relief areas and around the periphery, consistent with an old bronze patina. The fields show regular micro-granulation and even wear on the high

Dealer

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points, without a pasty appearance or any break in texture. The flan appears slightly irregular (a characteristic of large bronzes), with some peripheral weaknesses and small edge marks, with no visual element that would, within the strict limits of direct observation, call into question the overall coherence of the type.

Obverse
The type is as expected: laurelled, draped, and cuirassed bust of Gordian III right. Under raking light, the laurel wreath reads in segments (leaves and ties), and the facial volumes (forehead, nose, lips, chin) remain structured despite wear to the relief. The cuirass and drapery can still be distinguished by a play of planes visible at the shoulder and upper bust.
The legend IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG appears in segments around the circumference, with legibility varying according to centering; the layout and letter forms remain consistent with Roman issues of the period.

Reverse
The reverse matches the expected type: AETERNITATI AVG, with Aeternitas standing left, raising the right hand and holding a globe in the left. Under magnification, posture, drapery line, and overall silhouette remain readable, even if finer details are softened by wear.
The S-C stands to either side of the figure (in the fields), a characteristic arrangement on sestertii.
The circular legend AETERNITATI AVG reads by sections, with reading conditioned by wear and centering, which remains common for this module.

Characteristics
Authority: Gordian III (238-244).
Denomination: Sestertius (Æ).
Mint: Rome.
Date: AD 240-244.
Obverse: IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG, laurelled, draped and cuirassed bust right.

Reverse: AETERNITATI AVG, Aeternitas standing left, raising right hand and holding a globe; S-C in the fields.
Weight: 18.64 g.
Diameter: 30 mm.
References (cross bibliography): RIC IV 297a ; Cohen 43.

Historical context
The reign of Gordian III belongs to a 3rd century marked by the search for stability and by the need to affirm the continuity of imperial power. The choice of Aeternitas, personifying eternity and the permanence of the state, conveys a clear political message: to assert that the principate and Roman order project themselves into duration. The globe reinforces this visual language by suggesting universal authority and sovereign continuity.

Cultural value
For a collector, this sestertius offers particularly attractive qualities:
a large bronze of emblematic module, sought after for its "museum-like" presence in a collection;
a reverse of strong symbolic density (Aeternitas + globe), immediately legible;
a typology firmly framed by the corpora (RIC / Cohen), facilitating comparison, documentation, and placement within Gordian III's coinage.

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. 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 experts, according to the highest standards 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.