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Hadrian Denarius "providentia" -- Certificate Of Authenticity



210 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Silver denarius (AR) of Hadrian (117-138), struck at Rome in the early years of the reign (commonly placed circa AD 119-122), featuring a particularly evocative reverse: Providentia standing, pointing to a globe and holding a scepter, with PRO AVG -- a highly sought-after type for the clarity of its political message and its place among the prince's early issues.

Analysis & expertise
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: examination of both sides shows a light gray silver tone, with a soft, old sheen on the reliefs and natural shadows in the recesses. The fields display micro-striations and fine contact marks, consistent with ancient circulation followed by cabinet handling.

Dealer

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The flan shows a clear peripheral irregularity in the form of an edge chip/notch, locally affecting the rim and part of the legend; this accident, visible in the same sector on both sides, is consistent with a flan incident or subsequent handling--common on this module--and does not prevent identification. Within the strict limits of what the photographs allow, the overall set "portrait style + legend layout + Providentia with globe + proportions and marks" remains consistent with the stated attribution.

Obverse
The portrait matches the expected type: laurelled head of Hadrian right, with short beard and wavy hair rendered in locks. Under raking light, the laurel wreath can be followed in segments (leaves still structured), and the facial modeling (forehead, nose, lips, chin) remains well formed despite even wear on the high points.
A typological detail is perceptible: the presence of drapery on the shoulder (drapery) can be made out at the bust, a feature often noted for this variety.
The legend IMP CAESAR TRAIAN - HADRIANVS AVG is readable in sections around the portrait; local reading is disturbed by centering and the edge chip, without compromising identification of the titulature.

Reverse
The reverse shows Providentia standing left, pointing with the right hand to a globe and holding a scepter. Under ×10 magnification, the general stance, drapery, and hierarchy of attributes (globe + scepter) remain clearly legible; the globe is visible in the lower field, directly linked to the gesture of the figure.
The titulature is arranged according to the type's standard layout: P - M TR P - COS III around, with PRO and AVG placed in the field (clearly readable in the photographs). The combination "Providentia + globe + PRO AVG + COS III" forms a particularly characteristic typological set

for this issue.

Characteristics
Authority: Hadrian (117-138).
Denomination: Denarius (AR).
Mint: Rome.
Date: c. AD 119-122 (coherence based on COS III and the PRO AVG type).
Obverse: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG, laurelled head right, drapery visible on the shoulder.
Reverse: P M TR P COS III PRO AVG, Providentia standing left, pointing to the globe and holding a scepter; globe on the ground.
References (cross bibliography): RIC 133 ; BMC 304 ; Cohen 1198 var. (literature notes a variety without drapery).
Weight: 2.95 g.

Historical context
At the beginning of the reign, Hadrian develops a highly structured monetary communication in which imperial virtues function as political language. Providentia expresses the idea of a foresighted, organizing power and guarantor of order; the globe carries strong symbolic weight, evoking stability and mastery of the Roman world. The titulature COS III places the issue within a precisely identifiable phase of the reign, enhancing the type's historical interest.

Cultural value
For a collector, this denarius offers solid, lasting strengths:
a highly representative Hadrian portrait (beard, hairstyle, laurel wreath);
an immediately legible and strongly "collectible" reverse (Providentia with globe, PRO AVG);
a typology framed by the major corpora, facilitating comparison, classification, and integration into a thematic series on imperial virtues or on the early reign.

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 comparison with reference corpora. The coin is offered with a professional European provenance; the acquisition forms part of a specialized international transaction carried out within a recognized numismatic network and validated by expertise, in line with practices applicable to heritage objects.

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