PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Domitian Denarius With Minerva -- Certificate Of Authenticity



250 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Analysis & expertise
This silver denarius struck at Rome under Domitian (imperial mint, AD 90, TR P VIIII) belongs to the major Minerva-reverse series: here the goddess is shown standing left, armed (thunderbolt and spear), with a shield set on the ground. The pairing "full titulature + armed Minerva" is firmly documented in the standard corpora, notably RIC II.2, 692, with cross-references BMCRE 168 and RSC 259. Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: the photographs reveal a hammer-struck coin on a flan that is broadly round yet shows natural edge irregularities, including a clear edge chip/notch (old metal loss) and a few peripheral weaknesses. The silver surface displays an overall light-gray tone with

Dealer

ANTIKARTS

Antiques, artworks, historical curiosities and archaeological items

58 rue monceau

Paris 75008

field micro-striations and diffuse contact marks, consistent with ancient circulation and/or early cabinet handling. Relief structure remains coherent: the portrait retains strong volumes (profile, jawline, wreath), and the reverse is immediately readable through its key attributes (Minerva, spear, thunderbolt, shield). Within the strict limits of visual examination, the whole is consistent with an ancient strike of the series.

Obverse

The obverse shows the laurelled head of Domitian right, with the firm, mature portrait style characteristic of his later issues: short-lock hair, clean relief on forehead, nose, and jawline, with even wear on the highest points. The laurel wreath remains readable in segments (leaves and ties).

The surrounding legend can be followed in sections, matching the type: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P VIIII (reading conditioned by centering and the sector affected by the flan irregularity), which precisely fits the stated dating.

Reverse

The reverse follows the standard scheme: Minerva standing left, holding a thunderbolt and spear, with a shield on the ground near her feet. The figure is well structured: stance, drapery, and the hierarchy of attributes remain legible, even if some finer details are softened by wear and field marks.

The peripheral titulature is arranged as expected: IMP XXI COS XV CENS P P P, readable in segments around the scene; the complete set "armed Minerva (thunderbolt + spear) + shield on ground + titulature" remains strongly diagnostic and consistent with reference specimens, including those in institutional collections.

Specifications

Authority: Domitian, emperor AD 81-96.

Denomination: Denarius (AR)

Mint: Rome
Date: AD 90 (TR P VIIII; issue associated with IMP XXI / COS XV)
Metrology: 19 mm; 3.45 g (as provided)
Obverse: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P VIIII, laurelled head right
Reverse: IMP XXI COS XV CENS P P P, Minerva standing left, thunderbolt and spear, shield on the ground
References: RIC II.2, 692; BMCRE 168; RSC 259

Historical context
Domitian (81-96), last of the Flavians, developed a coinage rich in titulature as a vehicle of prestige and imperial assertion. The GERM element reflects a discourse of victory and military legitimacy. Domitian's repeated use of Minerva on denarii belongs to a durable ideological language: goddess of armed wisdom and protection, she becomes on coinage a symbol of strength, stability, and authority in service of the emperor's image.

Cultural value
For collectors, this denarius combines highly desirable qualities:
a crisp, characteristic laurelled portrait, strongly representative of Domitian;
an emblematic reverse (armed Minerva: thunderbolt + spear + shield), instantly recognizable;
a type firmly anchored in the principal corpora and readily comparable to reference examples (museums, published finds, specialized sales).

Traceability & guarantees
In accordance with our practices, each specimen is examined, described, and issued with a certificate of authenticity consistent with art and heritage market standards; the study is conducted under ×10 magnification and raking light, and relies on non-destructive technical criteria (typological coherence, legend logic, engraving

style, strike structure, and surface/metal consistency within observable limits).
Provenance is European, from a professional numismatic circuit; acquisition derives from a specialized international transaction within a recognized numismatic network and validated by reference expertise, in line with the standards expected for heritage objects.

Secure shipping
France: Colissimo, signature + insurance (EUR20)
Abroad: UPS, signature + insurance (EUR35)
Reinforced packaging, shock protection, and systematic tracking.

Payment terms
We accept:
Cheque (shipment after effective receipt of funds)
Bank transfer (details upon request)
Payment link (CB, Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Apple Pay)

Sales restriction -- United States
We do not sell to the United States due to the complexity of import requirements for cultural goods, specific customs controls, and related insurance constraints, in order to ensure fully controlled legal and logistical management of the international circulation of heritage objects.