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Otho -- Ar Denarius Secvritas P R -- Certificate Of Authenticity

850 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état



Description

Analysis & expertise
Close examination under ×10 magnification and raking light of an Otho denarius (January-April 69), representative of the short-lived coinage of the Year of the Four Emperors: this specimen combines a lively, official engraving style with well-set relief and several old flan incidents (natural edge irregularities and minor marginal micro-fissures) that fit the mechanics of hammer striking. The surface presents bright silver with a satiny grain, discreet flow lines depending on the light angle, and fine contact marks consistent with ancient circulation; the overall technical and visual coherence remains convincing.
Obverse
Legend: IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P -- readable with generally good continuity, despite

Dealer

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slight knocks and local softening near the rim.
Type: bare head right, in a highly characteristic portrait: short hair, a tense profile, sharply defined eye and brow, and a firm modelling of neck and drapery at the base of the bust. The beaded border remains visible in segments; the centering, while not perfectly academic, preserves the essential titulature and leaves a balanced field around the face.
Reverse
Legend: SECVRI-TAS P R -- with the typologically correct mid-word break, as expected for the series.
Type: Securitas standing left, holding a wreath and a sceptre. The figure remains readable and well balanced: the sceptre's vertical line, the stable placement of the body, and the immediate identification of the attributes all remain clear, even where wear slightly softens some drapery details.
Surface condition
Bright silver tone with a discreet cabinet patina; fine micro-striations and light contact marks; small marginal flan fissures and peripheral irregularities consistent with ancient striking stresses. No decisive visual feature compels a casting hypothesis: texture, relief-to-field transitions, edge breaks, and volumetric logic converge toward an ancient strike.

Specifications
Authority: Otho (15 January - April 69 AD)
Mint: Rome (traditional attribution for the type)
Date: 15 January - mid-April 69 AD
Denomination / metal: Denarius, AR (silver)
Module / weight: -- ; 3.27 g
Obverse: IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P ; bare head right
Reverse: SECVRI-TAS P R ; Securitas standing left, holding wreath and sceptre
References: C 15 ; BMC 19 ; RIC 10 ; CBN 7
Condition: legends readable, types sharp, sound surface; flan fissures and rim irregularities compatible with ancient manufacture

Historical context
Otho's reign lasts only a few months, which lends his denarii a singular intensity: here coinage becomes an immediate instrument of legitimacy during civil war. The choice of Securitas is not ornamental; it proclaims "public security" as a political horizon at the very moment the Empire is shaken by instability, giving this type an especially pointed ideological resonance within such a brief issue.

Cultural value
This denarius appeals on several levels: for the advanced collector, it offers the dense historical charge of a Year of the Four Emperors issue; for the enthusiast, the sober strength of a Roman portrait with energetic engraving; for the newcomer, a readily intelligible iconography -- Securitas with wreath and sceptre. The minor flan fissures and edge irregularities, far from diminishing its charm, reinforce the piece's material truth and the sense of an object that genuinely "lived."

Traceability & guarantees
Provenance: from established European collections.
Certificate of authenticity: supplied with the specimen.
Sale: specialized international transaction conducted within a recognized numismatic network, carried out in compliance with applicable regulations and professional market practice; each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate meeting the standards of the art and heritage market.