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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
Careful examination under ×10 magnification and raking light of an Otho denarius (January-April 69), whose photograph reveals, with almost didactic clarity, the engraving quality typical of the brief issues of the Year of the Four Emperors, while also showing--as so many signatures of time--a few flan irregularities that can be read as favorable markers of a genuine hammer strike. Obverse: the legend IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P reads with generally satisfactory continuity despite slight edge disturbances; the bare-headed portrait right is highly characteristic in style, with short hair and a taut, nervous physiognomy, all set within a beaded border that remains perceptible; the centering, while not perfectly

Dealer

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academic, remains harmonious, as it preserves the essential titulature and allows the field around the face to breathe.
Reverse: the legend SECVRI-TAS P R frames Securitas standing left, holding a wreath and a scepter; the figure, though slightly softened by wear, remains clearly legible, and the balance of the scene--particularly in the verticality of the scepter and the placement of the figure--remains very convincing; the legend break (SECVRI-TAS) appears consistent with the typological practice of the series.
Surface condition: bright-toned silver with a satiny grain, fine flow lines visible depending on the light angle, micro contact marks and marginal flan cracks (notably at the edge) consistent with the constraints of ancient striking; no obvious casting seam appears in these views, and the full set of visual indicators (style, relief, texture, edge breaks) strongly converges toward an ancient strike.

Specifications

Authority: Otho (15 January - April AD 69)
Mint: Rome (traditional attribution for the type)
Date: 15 January - mid-April AD 69
Denomination / metal: Denarius, AR (silver)
Diameter / weight: diameter not communicated; 3.27 g
Obverse: IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P; bare head right
Reverse: SECVRI-TAS P R; Securitas standing left, holding wreath and scepter
References: C 15 ; BMC 19 ; RIC 10 ; CBN 7
Condition: legends legible, types sharp, sound surface; flan cracks and rim irregularities compatible with ancient manufacture

Historical context

Otho reigned for only a few months, and that very brevity makes his denarii witnesses of singular intensity: the coinage becomes the immediate instrument of a legitimacy to be won, and the choice of Securitas is anything but ornamental, since it aims to proclaim, at the heart of civil war, public security as a political horizon--lending this

type an ideological force that is especially perceptible to anyone able to look beyond the relief.

Cultural value

This denarius appeals on multiple levels, offering the seasoned collector the historical density of a brief issue, the enthusiast the sober beauty of an unpretentious Roman portrait, and the novice an immediately intelligible iconography--Securitas holding wreath and scepter--that makes tangible the way Rome conceived of power through virtues; the small flan cracks and irregularities, far from diminishing its charm, give the piece that material truth which ensures an ancient coin is never a mere "object," but a fragment of history held in the hand.

Traceability & guarantees

Provenance: from established European collections.

Certificate of authenticity: provided with the specimen.

Sale: specialized international transaction conducted within a recognized numismatic network, carried out in strict compliance with applicable regulations and in accordance with professional numismatic market practice; each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity consistent with art and heritage market standards.