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Brettii "zeus & Eagle" Bronze Drachm -- With Certificate Of Authenticity



220 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Under the prestigious name BRUTTIUM, The Brettii, this specimen is clearly connected to the bronze coinage issued in southern Italy, in Bruttium, during the decades in which the Second Punic War imposed on local communities both a wartime economy and a political language through images; the typological identification, based on strictly observable motifs and on published concordances, corresponds to the "Zeus / Eagle, hook symbol" type, catalogued HN III 1981 and Scheu 20, as described in the corpora and corroborated by documented comparative specimens.
Analysis & expertise
Close examination under ×10 magnification and raking light, carried out according to a numismatic method of visual study oriented

Dealer

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toward reading the relief, assessing surface coherence, and understanding the strike, first highlights on the obverse a laureate bust of Zeus facing right, whose sculptural force remains perceptible despite circulation wear, with wavy hair and a beard structured into locks; the peripheral border, slightly softened by time, retains satisfactory continuity for a bronze coin of this module, the whole conveying an impression of stable, "classical" iconography, immediately recognizable to collectors of Greek and Italic Italy.

On the reverse, examination of the images reveals an eagle standing left with wings spread, rendered in relief that still brings out--especially in the areas of the remiges and wing coverts--a readable modeling; in the field to the left of the bird, one can distinguish the hook-shaped symbol, the typological differentiator precisely expected for the stated attribution, while the peripheral beading, better preserved on this side, forms a dotted border that underlines the composition and reinforces the impression of a fully "finished" type rather than a summary one.

As to the metal, the green patina, nuanced with darker tones and brown-green reflections depending on the angle of light, presents as a stabilized bronze patina whose visual homogeneity enhances the coin's presentation; in some peripheral areas, small flan irregularities and a few age marks at the edge are noted, consistent with the normal life of a coin that circulated and not sufficient to compromise the overall readability of the type, which remains, to the naked eye and under magnification, governed by the main volumes and by the coherence of the relief.

Finally, the epigraphic reading, though unevenly visible in this particular photograph, fits the logic of the Greek legend ????????, expected for these Brettii issues--a legend that numismatic literature and comparative catalogues associate precisely with this Zeus / Eagle iconographic pair and with the family of field symbols among which the

hook appears.

Specifications

Region, authority, period: Bruttium (Calabria, southern Italy), The Brettii, issue dated circa 214-211 BC, within the broader framework of Brettian coinage contemporary with the Italian phases of the Second Punic War.

Denomination, metal, stated metrology: Bronze drachm, 22.5 mm and 8.88 g, with a module consistent with the family of heavy Brettian units documented for this period.

Obverse: Laureate head of Zeus right, in a deliberately monumental style typical of civic issues in which the deity grounds the community's symbolic authority.

Reverse: ????????, eagle standing left, wings spread, with "hook" symbol at left, in accordance with the catalogued type.

References: Historia Numorum (HN) III, no. 1981; Scheu, no. 20, references repeated in comparative market notices and archival records.

Historical context

The Brettii--Bruttii in Latin authors--occupied, in the Hellenistic period, the southwestern tip of the Italian peninsula, a region modern scholarship associates with Calabria; their political trajectory was strongly shaped by the great Roman-Carthaginian confrontation, since sources and encyclopedic syntheses hold that, after Cannae, they were among the first to declare in favor of Hannibal, while the terminal phase of the conflict remained anchored for a long time in their territory.

In this setting, Brettian coinage, as presented by standard numismatic documentation and by the notices of major firms, can be understood as an instrument both economic and identity-forming, in which the iconography of Zeus, principle of order and sovereignty, and the eagle, figure of strength and celestial domination, expresses a claimed stability in a world constrained by war and by shifting alliances.

Cultural value

For the collector, this bronze drachm brings

together, in a particularly legible and "emblematic" formula, three major attractions: its belonging to Greek and Italic Italy, its place within the great historical drama of the Second Punic War, and the obvious iconography of the Zeus / Eagle pair which, by its very clarity, carries through the centuries with immediate recognizability; it also offers, thanks to the field symbol (the hook), that added typological specificity that nourishes the learned pleasure of classification and comparison.

Traceability & guarantees

Each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity consistent with the standards of the art and heritage market; careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light forms an integral part of the descriptive protocol, so that the buyer receives not a simple "mention," but a coin presented with method, numismatic vocabulary, and typological anchoring in recognized references.

As the provenance is European, from an established numismatic dealer, the acquisition is carried out, in accordance with your consistent standard, through a specialized international transaction conducted within a recognized numismatic network and validated by reference expertises, placing the piece within a chain of circulation consistent with the serious practices of the heritage market.