



## Diocletian Follis "genio Populi Romani" -- Certificate Of Authenticity



200 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

### Description

#### Analysis & expertise

A follis of the Tetrarchic reform bearing the profile of Diocletian, struck at Heraclea circa AD 297-298, a cabinet piece of very strong interest to the collector, because it combines--within a large bronze module still close to the "monumental" intent of the earliest reformed issues--an imperial portrait of immediately recognizable iconographic firmness and a reverse featuring the Genius of the Roman People, a cardinal type of monetary propaganda at the turn of the 4th century; the reading rests here on a typological concordance established with RIC VI Heraclea 19a, as well as on the presence of the mintmark HTA in the exergue, a mark commonly transcribed HTA or HT? depending on the form of the final letter, without this variation of

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transcription affecting the identification of the type.

Careful observation under  $\times 10$  magnification and raking light: the specimen shows a broad, regular flan bordered by a crisp rim, with a well-seated strike and a laureate portrait right whose forehead, eye, and jaw volumes read with convincing continuity, while the legend IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG unfolds around the perimeter with consistent spacing and well-formed letters; the reverse, of clear legibility, presents the Genius standing left, wearing modius and chlamys, pouring a libation from a patera and holding a cornucopia, all encircled by GENIO POPVLI ROMANI, an iconographic combination that stands as one of the most representative emblems of Diocletian's monetary reform.

#### Specifications

Authority: Diocletian (AD 284-305).

Denomination / metal: Follis ( $\mathcal{A}$ ), major bronze issue of the Tetrarchic reform.

Mint: Heraclea (Thrace, Marmara Ereğlisi), a mint established under Diocletian and durably active in Late Antiquity.

Striking date: approx. AD 297-298 (type attribution RIC VI 19a, Heraclea).

Diameter / weight: approx. 27 mm; 9.72 g (as stated).

Obverse: laureate head right; IMP C C VAL DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG.

Reverse: Genius standing left, modius on head, chlamys, libation with patera and cornucopia; GENIO POPVLI ROMANI; exergue HTA (final letter read close to delta under common conventions).

Surface condition: dark, even patina with occasional natural tonal nuances; relief retains the structure of the essential details--the laurel wreath, hair texture, eye and nose line on the obverse, and on the reverse the full Genius silhouette, patera, cornucopia, and mintmark--ensuring a solid numismatic presence and stable reading within the Heraclea folles.

## Historical context

At the end of the 3rd century, Diocletian's political program--structured around the Tetrarchy and a refashioning of the instruments of government--was accompanied by a monetary reform seeking to restore confidence, legibility, and the authority of imperial coinage; it is precisely in this framework that the great theme GENIO POPVLI ROMANI takes hold, a formula both religious and civic, in which the Genius becomes the protective personification of the Roman political body, while the attributes of abundance--libation, modius, cornucopia--place supply stability and public prosperity at the heart of the monetary message.

## Cultural value

For the collector, this specimen stands out for the "fullness" of its iconographic language, offering--within a large, satisfying-in-hand module--one of the most canonical images of Late Antiquity, immediately placeable historically, and particularly relevant to a collection devoted to the Tetrarchic reform, to eastern and Thracian mints, or to the great civic personifications of Rome, to which the Genius lends an almost constitutional gravity.

## Traceability & guarantees

The provenance is European, from an established numismatic dealer, and the acquisition was made through a specialized international transaction, conducted within a recognized numismatic network and validated to the highest standards of the art and heritage market; the attribution is based on direct concordance with RIC VI 19a and on market comparanda describing the same legend-type pairing and the same mintmark HTA/HT?.

Each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity consistent with the standards of the art and heritage market, this notice being deliberately anchored to observable elements and consultable reference works so that the collector's confidence rests on a verifiable documentary basis.