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Caracalla -- Virtus On Globe -- Certificate Of Authenticity



200 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Analysis & expertise
A silver denarius of Caracalla, struck at Rome in AD 209, whose appeal to the collector lies in the very legible pairing of an obverse with a laureate portrait--still lightly bearded--and a Virtus reverse of particularly "programmatic" composition, since the military personification is shown facing, head turned right, the left foot set upon a globe, holding a spear and a parazonium--an arrangement precisely recognized and documented for the type RIC 112 / BMC 13 / Cohen 464.
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: the specimen stands out for a well-centered flan and clearly present peripheral beading, the portrait reading immediately through the laurel wreath, hair texture, and short beard,

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while on the reverse the Virtus figure retains its decisive markers--frontal stance, globe beneath the foot, spear shaft, and parazonium--which, by their overall coherence, suffice to establish a fully verifiable typological attribution.

Specifications

Authority / period: Caracalla (AD 198-217).

Mint: Rome.

Denomination / metal: Denarius, silver (AR).

Diameter / weight: 19 mm; 3.43 g (as stated).

Obverse (reading and type): ANTONINVS PIVS AVG, laureate head right, with light beard, a typology consistent with the year of issue as indicated by the reverse titulature.

Reverse (reading and type): PONTIF TR P XII COS III, Virtus standing, facing, head right, left foot on globe, holding spear and parazonium.

References: BMC 13; Cohen 464; RIC 112.

Surface condition (descriptive observations): nuanced grey toning, with fine circulation marks consistent for a denarius of this module, and small peripheral flan irregularities typical of hammer striking, without affecting legend readability or the iconographic clarity of the type.

Historical context

The titulature TR P XII places the issue within a phase in which Severan power emphasizes the close bond between sovereignty and the army, and the choice of Virtus--military virtue and civic courage--serves a particularly direct authority message: the globe beneath the foot signifies, in Roman symbolic language, an ordering mastery of the world, while the parazonium, a prestige weapon, signals less violence than the dignity of command.

Cultural value

For the collector, this denarius offers a highly sought synthesis: an expressive, well-typed portrait of Caracalla and a reverse of strong narrative density, where Virtus' posture and the footing on the globe create an immediately memorable image, perfectly at home in a collection devoted to the Severans, political personifications, or the "military" types of Roman

imperial silver.

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; identification is established by concordance of legends and type with RIC 112 / BMC 13 / Cohen 464, as published and comparable in numismatic archives.

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 founded on a truth strictly verifiable through observation and consultable references, so that the collector's confidence rests on controllable elements.