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Septimius Severus Sestertius "fidei Leg" -- Certificate Of Authenticity



230 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Analysis & expertise
A bronze sestertius of Septimius Severus, struck at Rome in AD 193, an emblematic issue from the very first months of the reign, because it stages--with almost programmatic directness--the Fides of the legions, under the reverse legend FIDEI LEG TR P COS / S-C, and can be linked, by typological concordance, to the references RIC 651 / BMC 469 / Cohen 147, which describe precisely the same association of titulature, type, and layout.
Careful observation under ×10 magnification and raking light: direct examination reveals a large bronze on a naturally irregular flan, whose deep brown patina, nuanced by lighter highlights on the high points, enhances an energetic, solidly modeled laureate portrait (laurel wreath, tight

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hair, short dense beard, articulation of neck and bust), while the reverse, though more softened by circulation, retains the structuring markers of the type--S and C clearly placed in the field, the presence of Fides standing, and a typological reading consistent with the standard description "Fides holding a Victoriola and a standard (vexillum)."

Characteristics

Authority / period: Septimius Severus (AD 193-211), Rome issue dated 193 for this specific "loyalty of the legions" type.

Denomination / metal: Sestertius, bronze (Æ), with S-C on the reverse in accordance with senatorial practice for large imperial bronzes.

Weight / diameter: 31 mm; 21.95 g (specimen data), fully consistent with the sestertius category for this date and type.

Obverse (legend / type): IMP CAES L SEPT SEV PERT AVG, laureate head of Septimius Severus right, portrait in a style typical of the early reign.

Reverse (legend / type): FIDEI LEG TR P COS / S-C, Fides standing, holding a Victory (victoriola) and a standard (vexillum), layout and iconography consistent with published notices.

References: RIC 651; BMC 469; Cohen 147.

Historical context

The year 193, the so-called "Year of the Five Emperors," forced Septimius Severus into accelerated legitimation in which the army played a decisive role, and this is precisely what the monetary appeal to Fides Legionum crystallizes: coinage turns the expected loyalty of the troops into a public image, while also inscribing the emperor within institutional continuity through titulature and through the large senatorial bronze, a privileged medium of diffusion at the heart of the Urbs.

Cultural value

For a Severan cabinet, this sestertius brings together highly sought qualities: a large module with ample material presence, a portrait of immediate identification, and a reverse with a

direct political message--the loyalty of the legions--whose force lies in the simplicity of its iconography (Fides, victoriola, standard) and its historical density; for this reason, the type is frequently presented as uncommon in catalogues and collection databases, with some market actors even classifying it as "rare" in their internal systems.

Traceability & guarantees

The provenance is European, from an established numismatic dealer, and the acquisition was made through a specialized international transaction within a recognized numismatic network, validated according to the highest standards of the art and heritage market; the attribution rests on a controllable concordance of legends, iconography, and the references RIC 651 / BMC 469 / Cohen 147, which describe exactly the same "FIDEI LEG ... / S-C" combination with Fides holding victoriola and standard.

Each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity in accordance with the standards of the art and heritage market, so that the buyer has at their disposal a clear, traceable documentary framework aligned with professional practice.