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Galba (spanish Issue), Spqr Shield, Var. Ric 234 -- Certificate Of Authenticity



350 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

This civil-war silver denarius, attributed to Galba and struck in Spain within the horizon April-late AD 68, belongs to the Hispanic group issued when Galba--then governor of Hispania Tarraconensis--entered the insurrectionary dynamic against Nero; in specialized market documentation, the present type is described with the obverse titulature SER GALBA IMP CAESAR AVG PM TR P, and with on the reverse a small clipeus bearing SP QR, surrounded by an oak wreath, the whole being compared to RIC 234 var., BMC 341 var., Cohen 210, BN III 36, 28 var., with the important clarification that the cited references ordinarily read GALBA IMPERATOR on the obverse, making this obverse combination a variant reported as very rare. The weight of 3.64 g and

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the diameter of 19 mm fit fully within the expected fabric of a hammer-struck Hispanic Galba denarius.

Each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity in accordance with the standards of the art and heritage market; the present piece immediately attracts the knowledgeable collector's attention through its highly specific typological character, its coherent metrology, and its place within the Hispanic sequence of the Galban uprising--one of the most historically charged phases of the year 68.

Analysis & Expertise

Close observation under ×10 magnification and raking light. Direct examination of the obverse reveals a laureate portrait of Galba right, still firmly set within the mass of the flan, with a wreath legible in principle, an identifiable facial profile, and a peripheral legend preserved in segments consistent with the titulature reported for this variant; the strike appears well centered on the principal motif, and the beaded border remains perceptible along a substantial part of the circumference, giving the obverse a serious visual steadiness consistent with an early Hispanic denarius from this troubled phase. The flan's overall morphology, slightly irregular, accords with the hammer-struck technique documented for Galba's denarii.

The reverse preserves the essential framework of the type, with a central clipeus still discernible and the circular enclosure of the civic oak wreath, according to an iconographic formula well attested in Galba's coinage; despite more marked wear in the central field, the structure of the motif remains sufficiently legible to support a solid attribution to the SP QR / oak wreath group, and the overall economy of the relief remains consistent with genuine ancient circulation. The oak wreath belongs to the repertory of the corona civica, a civic distinction that became an imperial emblem, a theme explicitly recalled in specialist notices for Galba's oak-wreath reverses.

The silver surface presents an authentically ancient physiognomy, with relief naturally softened, regular wear from circulation, and marginal tensions compatible with a small late Republican-to-Imperial module struck by hammer; nothing in the visible metal structure, the behavior of the relief, the rise of the preserved letters, or the controlled irregularity of the outline departs from the expected material logic of an ancient denarius from this sequence. The flan also shows a small old marginal nick, stabilized, which integrates easily into the object's material life and does not interrupt the coin's typological reading.

Characteristics

Authority.

The issue is attributed to Galba, future emperor of 68-69, then a principal actor of the Hispanic uprising against Nero.

Mint.

The mint remains Hispanic, with a traditional attribution toward Tarraco or a Spanish workshop of the same group, the specialized market notice expressly stating Spain (Tarraco ?) for this variant.

Dating.

The strike falls within April-late AD 68, i.e., the initial phase of Galba's rebellion.

Denomination.

Silver denarius.

Metal.

Silver.

Weight.

3.64 g.

Diameter.

19 mm.

Obverse.

Described for this variant as SER GALBA IMP CAESAR AVG PM TR P, laureate head right.

Reverse.

A small clipeus bearing SP QR, surrounded by an oak wreath.

Typological comparison.

Specialized documentation compares this variant

to RIC 234 var., BMC 341 var., Cohen 210, BN III 36, 28 var., noting that standard references usually read GALBA IMPERATOR on the obverse.

Collecting position.

The obverse variant is explicitly presented as a VERY RARE VARIANT in the specialized market consulted.

Historical context

In 68, Galba, governor of Hispania Tarraconensis, agreed to take the lead of opposition against Nero in the context opened by Vindex's initiative in Gaul; Britannica notes that he then recruited significant support in Spain and other parts of the Empire before being raised to power after Nero's fall. The Hispanic anchoring of this issue is therefore of immediate historical weight, placing the coin at the very heart of Galba's seizure of power.

The reverse vocabulary is, in this setting, particularly dense: the oak wreath refers to the corona civica, a distinction linked to the saving of citizens and adopted within imperial iconography, while SP QR inserts the type into the language of the Senate and People of Rome; it is an abbreviated civic and institutional formulation, perfectly suited to a moment when Galba builds legitimacy not as a mere rebel general, but as a restorer of Roman public order.

Cultural value

The cultural value of this coin is considerable, because it brings together--within a small silver module--three levels of interest immediately evident to the expert collector: a Galba portrait from the Hispanic phase, a civic oak-wreath reverse, and an obverse variant described as very rare; the object thus belongs not only to transitional imperial numismatics, but to the most sensitive monetary documentation of the year 68, when Roman authority was being reconfigured amid civil war.

For a cabinet specializing in the civil wars of 68-69, Hispanic workshops, or legend variants of high documentary value, this specimen has its

own distinct quality, combining an immediately legible typology with a bibliographic status as a variant; it is precisely this kind of object--more than some more common but better-preserved coins--that gives a collection scholarly depth and true singularity.

Traceability & Guarantees

From a European provenance, from an established numismatic dealer, this specimen was acquired through a specialized international transaction conducted within a recognized numismatic network and validated by reference experts, in accordance with the highest standards of the art and heritage market; examination here retains the stylistic, technical, metrological, and typological characteristics effectively observable on the coin, set within the framework of Galba's Hispanic group and compared with currently accessible references and specialist notices. Each specimen is examined, described, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity in accordance with the standards of the art and heritage market; in the present case, the concordance between the laureate Galba portrait, the SP QR clipeus under an oak wreath, the observed metrology, the Hispanic attribution, and the catalogue comparison RIC 234 var. / BMC 341 var. / Cohen 210 / BN III 36, 28 var. supports a rigorous, tightly framed numismatic presentation fully suited to a knowledgeable collecting audience.