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Valerian I Ric 165 -- Certificate Of Authenticity



350 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

This sestertius of Valerian I, a large Roman bronze, matches with very clear numismatic coherence the LIBERALITAS AVGG / S C type of the Rome mint, classified as RIC V.1 165 and MIR 66h, generally placed within AD 255-256; the combination of the imperial portrait right and the reverse with Liberalitas standing holding a tessera and a cornucopia corresponds exactly to the group published by the corpora and specialized comparanda, while the stated metrology, 18.12 g for 29 mm, remains fully compatible with the series, Numista giving for this type a benchmark of 18.8 g and 30 mm. The sought-after character of the issue may be noted with restraint, Numista's rarity index being 97, which places the type within a clearly followed collecting zone.

Dealer

ANTIKARTS
Antiques, artworks, historical curiosities and archaeological items

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Analysis & Expertise

Close observation under ×10 magnification and raking light. The obverse presents a laureate portrait of Valerian right, immediately intelligible in reading, whose general structure remains well held in the forehead, eye, nasal line, mouth, and above all the beard, still legible in its mass; the laurel wreath retains clear presence, and the peripheral legend--though partially softened by ancient circulation--remains sufficiently preserved to place the specimen within the titulature group IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG. The flan's periphery, slightly irregular, together with the continuity of the border over broad segments, fully accords with an ancient strike in large bronze. The obverse type published for RIC 165 is indeed that of a laureate bust right, public references describing a laureate and cuirassed bust.

The reverse retains particularly secure typological readability, with Liberalitas standing left, holding in the right hand a tessera / distribution tablet and in the left a cornucopia, with S C in the fields; despite homogeneous wear in the fields, the essential attributes, the figure's verticality, and the scene's overall economy remain very legible, supporting without difficulty attribution to the LIBERALITAS AVGG type. The surface shows an old green and brown patina, stable in its overall balance, with mineral nuances compatible with the long material history of a large Roman bronze; the whole thus retains a very sound, legible, and coherent cabinet presence. Reference descriptions for RIC V.1 165 give exactly this Liberalitas scene holding tessera and cornucopiae within a Rome sestertius dated AD 255-256.

What favorably singularizes this specimen for the knowledgeable collector is the conjunction of a sought-after type, well-centered metrology, a portrait that remains readable, and a reverse fully identifiable in its concept--precisely the qualities expected in a Valerian sestertius by an enthusiast of mid-third-century bronzes; the series itself is less common than contemporary antoniniani, and

the presence of a well-characterized large bronze of Liberalitas AVGG always forms a solid milestone within a rigorous, scholarly collection of the reign.

Characteristics

The object is defined as a sestertius of Valerian I, struck at Rome, in bronze / copper-alloy, within the AD 255-256 group, with a recorded weight of 18.12 g and a diameter of 29 mm; the obverse belongs to the type IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG, laureate bust right, and the reverse to the type LIBERALITAS AVGG / S C, with Liberalitas standing left holding tessera and cornucopia. The principal bibliographic attribution is to RIC V.1 165 and MIR 66h, with additional documentary coherence in specialized comparanda published under the same reference.

Historical context

This issue belongs to the phase of the reign in which Valerian rules jointly with Gallienus, and in which the reverse formula AVGG precisely expresses the liberality of the two Augusti; the choice of Liberalitas is therefore not abstract decoration, but an imperial vocabulary directly tied to distribution, public benefaction, and the presence of power within the city. Reference notices explicitly translate LIBERALITAS AVGG S C as the liberality of the two emperors, issued under senatorial guarantee, and classify this type among Rome's large bronzes of AD 255-256.

Cultural value

The cultural interest of this piece is high, because it unites a large imperial bronze, a strongly individualized portrait of Valerian, and a civic reverse of great doctrinal legibility; unlike the far more abundant billon silver denominations of the reign, the Rome sestertius here retains a monumental presence that gives the figure of Liberalitas particularly strong impact. For a collection oriented toward third-century bronzes, brief and difficult reigns, or imperial liberalitas issues, this specimen carries real interest, reinforced by the type's relative rarity in

collection surveys and on the specialized market.

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, according to the highest standards of the art and heritage market; examination retains only the stylistic, technical, epigraphic, and metrological characteristics effectively observable, set within the framework of the Rome type Valerian I / LIBERALITAS AVGG / RIC V.1 165 and compared against the public and comparative references in the dossier. 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 portrait, the Liberalitas reverse, the diameter and weight data, the Rome mint, and the references RIC V.1 165 / MIR 66h establishes a particularly solid numismatic attribution.