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Philip I Ric 174a -- Certificate Of Authenticity



250 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Analysis & Expertise
This sestertius of Philip I, struck at Rome and attributable to the FORTVNA REDVX / S C type, corresponds with very strong coherence to RIC IV.3, 174a, also published under MIR 36, 66h, with the obverse IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG and a reverse showing Fortuna seated left, holding a rudder and a cornucopia, with a wheel beneath the seat; the series is documented in public corpora and in specialized comparanda as a large bronze of the reign, generally placed within AD 244-249, with examples measuring around 28 to 30 mm and weighing often between 16 and 19 g, which makes the specimen considered here, at 29 mm and 18.12 g, perfectly consistent with the group. The sought-after character of this issue may be underlined

Dealer

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precisely, several surveys placing it at a high level of rarity in current inventories.

Close observation under ×10 magnification and raking light. The obverse presents a laureate portrait of Philip I facing right, whose structure remains well defined, with a clearly legible laurel wreath, a broad forehead, an open and well-placed eye, a clear nasal line, a tight mouth, and a short, regular, firmly modeled beard; the bust retains clear readability in its drapery and cuirass, and the obverse titulature, though softened in places, remains sufficiently broad to confirm the published type without difficulty. The flan, broad and slightly irregular, perfectly corresponds to an ancient strike of a Roman sestertius, while the edge preserves a satisfactory presence of border and lettering.

The reverse offers particularly secure typological readability, since one clearly recognizes Fortuna Redux seated left, holding in the right hand a rudder and in the left a cornucopia, with a wheel placed beneath the seat and S C in the exergue, according to a composition exactly consistent with the published descriptions for RIC 174a; the goddess' silhouette remains intelligible, the rudder remains well individualized, the cornucopia retains its presence, and the wheel beneath the seat--an essential detail of the type--can be recognized with sufficient clarity to support a very firm numismatic attribution. The reverse thus preserves the full doctrinal and iconographic legibility that makes this issue of interest.

The surface shows a brown-green circulation patina, with coherent mineral nuances across the flan, and relief still readable on the strategic points of the portrait and reverse; the fields show regular wear compatible with the denomination's ancient circulation without harming type intelligibility, while the coin's overall volume remains very satisfactory for a large bronze of Philip I. This material coherence, combined with the specimen's full typological conformity, gives it a solid, legible cabinet presence that is

immediately convincing to the knowledgeable collector.

Characteristics

This is a sestertius of Philip I, struck at Rome, in copper-alloy / large bronze, with on the obverse IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG, laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust right, and on the reverse FORTVNA REDVX, Fortuna seated left holding a rudder and a cornucopia, with a wheel beneath the seat and S C in the exergue. The principal bibliographic attribution is RIC IV.3, 174a, with concordance MIR 36, 66h; specialized comparanda published under this reference give diameters of 28 to 30 mm for weights around 14.48 g, 16.13 g, 17.61 g, or 18.8 g, placing the present specimen at 29 mm and 18.12 g within a thoroughly convincing metrological bracket for the type.

Historical context

The FORTVNA REDVX type belongs to a monetary language of great political legibility, in which the figure of Fortuna of the happy return expresses stability, preservation, and continuity of imperial power; under Philip I, whose reign runs from 244 to 249, this iconography takes on particular resonance in a context of strong political and military tension, with coinage contributing to the affirmation of a protective and ordering authority. Specialized references mention this type among the Roman sestertii of the reign, and catalogue tradition firmly maintains it within the 244-249 group, some published specimens being more narrowly dated to 249 in the final sequence of Philip's Roman bronzes.

Cultural value

The cultural interest of this piece is high, because it combines a large imperial bronze, a highly recognizable portrait of Philip I, and a Fortuna Redux reverse whose iconographic legibility remains exemplary; it is not an anonymous circulating bronze, but an object in which typology, titulature, and the symbolism of power remain perfectly articulated. For the knowledgeable collector, the presence of the

wheel beneath the seat--distinctive detail of the type--further increases the reverse's appeal by giving the issue an immediately recognizable visual personality within the mid-third-century bronzes. The fact that the type is regularly described as uncommon or rare in specialized studies further reinforces its collecting interest.