

Claudius And Agrippina Jr. 50 - 54 A.D. Silver Denarius



Claudius was one of the most capable, yet unlikely emperors. Shunned as an idiot by his family due to a limp and embarrassing stutter, Claudius spent the first decades of his life absorbed in scholarly studies until the death of his nephew Caligula. After Caligula's murder the Praetorian Guard found him hiding behind a curtain in the Imperial Palace, expecting to be murdered. Instead the guard proclaimed him emperor. His reign was marred by personal catastrophes, most notably promiscuity and betrayal by his first wife. He governed well and conquered the troublesome island of Britain. He was poisoned by his second wife, Agrippina Jr., mother of Nero.

Julia Agrippina was a great-granddaughter of Augustus, great-niece and adoptive granddaughter of Tiberius, sister of Caligula, niece and fourth wife of Claudius, and mother of the Nero. She is described by the ancient sources as ruthless, ambitious, violent and domineering, but also beautiful and reputable. According to Pliny the Elder, she had a double right upper canine, a sign of good fortune. Many ancient historians accused Agrippina of poisoning Claudius. A soothsayer prophesied if Nero became emperor, he would kill his mother, Agrippina replied "Let him kill me, only let him rule!" Nero had her executed in 59 A.D.

Forum Number: RS72978

References: RIC I 81 (R), BMCRE I 75, RSC II Agrippina II and Claudius 4, BnF II 82, Hunter I 36, SRCV I 1886

Grade: F, nice portraits, toned, well centered on crowded flan

Weight: 3.329 grams

Maximum Diameter: 18.1mm

Die Axis: 135°

Mint: Rome mint

Date Struck: C. 50 - 54 A.D.

Obverse Legend: TI CLAVD CAESAR AVG GERM P M TRIB POT P P

Obverse Description: Laureate head of Claudius right

Reverse Legend: AGRIPPINAE AVGVSTAE

Reverse Description: Draped bust of Agrippina II right, she wears a wreath of grain from which one long tie hangs down at the back, her hair is fastened in a long plait looped up behind her neck, two locks fall loose down her neck

Comments: From the Jyrki Muona Collection. Rare

FORVM ANCIENT COINS certifies this item is genuine as described above.

Joseph T. Sermarini



FORVM ANCIENT COINS
www.forumancientcoins.com