

LEU NUMISMATIK

AUCTION 7 . PART 2

FOREWORD

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Leu Auction 7. This is by far our most extensive floor auction to date and we are therefore extremely pleased to be able to provide you with two catalogues presenting the 1,100 lots in the customary detailed manner. The present catalogue contains exclusively Roman, Byzantine and medieval modern coins that have been entrusted to us over the course of the last year and which we regard as especially interesting and suitable for a printed floor auction catalogue. The Celtic, Greek and Roman Provincial coins of Leu Auction 7 can be found in the catalogue for the first part of the auction, which takes place on 24 October 2020.

The coins of the Roman Republic and the Imperial Era make up the lion's share of the second part of Leu Auction 7. Three collections are particularly noteworthy here: that of an Armenian businessman, a Bavarian enthusiast and a master chef who is a friend of ours. The coins from these collections are without a doubt among the most outstanding of this series of auctions and provide the opportunity for collectors with various financial means to acquire desirable pieces. We also feel honored to be able to offer for sale the second, and highly significant, part of the collection of a retired senior air force officer. Over the course of around fifteen years, the collector has assembled more than 100 solidi from Constantine the Great to Anthemius from a wide range of mints and in outstanding condition - the result is spectacular! In addition to the common types in a condition hard to surpass, there are also large and seldom offered rarities of no lesser quality. We refrain from mentioning individual pieces here, as to do so would go beyond the scope of this preface, and instead we would like to invite you to convince yourself of the quality of this special collection.

Gold coins are also a focal point of the second part of the 'Aurum Barbarorum Collection' (lots 1857-1933). The 77 (*sic!*) pieces for sale here actually surpass even the first part of the collection in terms of quality and variety of types (Leu Auction 4 of 25 May 2019, lots 783-833). This significant increase in number of pieces has enabled us to successfully review and group this highly interesting early Germanic coinage on a scientific basis. An introduction can be found on page 188.

The Byzantine coins and lead seals deserve no less attention than the Roman coins. The highlight here is a small but excellent collection of Basilika of the Palaiologists, the last imperial dynasty of the Byzantine Empire, including the extremely rare 1/8th stavraton of the last Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI (lot 1980), only a few of which have survived. The two Byzantine seals of the Ekdikoi of Hagia Sophia and John Gabras are also of great historical importance (lots 1989 and 1990).

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the compilation of Greek, Roman and Byzantine coin and commercial weights, which is unique in its abundance and quality. The showpiece of this group is the excellently preserved imperial market weight of Phocas (AD 602-610) from his 8th and thus last year of reign (lot 2059).

We wish you much enjoyment in reading the catalogue and look forward to welcoming you in Zurich from 23-25 October 2020, in person, by telephone or via the Internet.