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ANCIENTS

41-54 AD CLAUDIUS I AV AUREUS (19MM, 7.80 GM, 11H) NGC CHOICE XF 5/5 - 3/5



Claudius was the fourth Roman emperor, ruling from AD 41 to 54. As emperor, Claudius proved to be a dutiful and competent administrator, but he was undone by his atrocious taste in women. Messalina, his promiscuous third wife, ran wild as empress and nearly brought down his regime in AD 48. His next wife, Agrippina the Younger, used her wiles to enhance her own power and advance Nero, her son by a previous marriage, in the succession arrangements. This done, she fed Claudius a dish of poisoned mushrooms in October, AD 54, and brought his 13-year reign to an end. Agrippina was given extraordinary prominence on the coinage during Claudius' reign, as evidenced by this aureus.

Rome, AD 50-54. RIC I 80. Calicó 396b. Two exceptionally attractive portraits. Areas of light orange toning.

Obverse: laureate head of Claudius I facing right

Reverse: Pax-Nemesis advancing right, raising fold of drapery below chin with right hand, winged caduceus downward in left pointing at serpent advancing right. Broad flan with areas of red toning and simply gorgeous for the grade.

Additional Rarity: Maxentius (AD 307-312). AV quaternio or medallion of 4-aurei (33mm, 21.12 gm, 1h). NGC MS 5/5 - 2/5, Fine Style, smoothing sold at auction in August 2021 for \$312,000.

