

DAVID R. SEAR

Certificate of Authenticity

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This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by

Issued to: Jens Georg Feierabend

On: April 26, 2017

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Agrippina Senior (wife of Germanicus, died AD 33)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 37-41 (posthumous issue under Caligula)

Weight: 25.03 grams

Maximum Diameter: 34.32 millimeters

Die Axis: ↙

Obverse: AGRIPPINA M F MAT C CAESARIS AVGVSTI, draped bust of Agrippina Senior right, her hair waved and fastened in long plait down the back of her neck.

Reverse: carpentum drawn left by two mules, the hood supported by statues of standing female figures, one at each corner, the side panel decorated with dancing figures surmounted by stars, the wheel with six spokes, S P Q R / MEMORIAE / AGRIPPINAE in three lines above.

References: RIC (Caligula) 55; BMCRE (Caligula) 81-5 and pl. 30, 5 (*same reverse die*); CBN (Caligula) 128-31 and pl. XVIII; Cohen 1; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values I*) 1827.

Grade: F/good F, some surface porosity

Historical & Numismatic Note: born in 15 BC, the elder Agrippina was the daughter of Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa and Julia, daughter of Augustus. About AD 5, she married Germanicus, son of Nero Claudius Drusus, just after his adoption by his uncle Tiberius. She accompanied her husband on many of his military campaigns, sharing the hardships of camp life, and bore him nine children, including the future Emperor Caligula and the Empress Agrippina Junior. Following her husband's early death at Antioch in AD 19, she lived in Rome and became involved in the opposition to the growing power of the praetorian prefect Sejanus. Unfortunately, she was on bad terms with the Emperor Tiberius whom she suspected of being implicated in her husband's mysterious death. In AD 29, she was arrested and banished to the island of Pandateria where she died of starvation four years later. Her coinage was issued posthumously under her son, the Emperor Caligula, and under her brother-in-law, the Emperor Claudius. This orichalcum sestertius, worth one-quarter of the silver denarius and one-hundredth of the gold aureus, belongs to the former series and features on the reverse a carpentum, a two-wheeled carriage with a hood the use of which in central Rome was a rare privilege granted only to married women of high rank. Agrippina presumably enjoyed the use of one prior to her arrest and imprisonment in AD 29. The obverse inscription describes her as "daughter of Marcus" — *M[arci] F[ilia]* — and "mother of the Emperor Gaius Caesar" (= Caligula) — *Mat[er] G[aii] Caesaris Augusti*.

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