

DAVID R. SEAR

Certificate of Authenticity

issued by the Ancient Coin Certification Service (A.C.C.S.)



This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by

Issued to: Jens Georg Feierabend

On: April 27, 2017

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Diadumenian (as Caesar under Macrinus, AD 217-218)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 218

Weight: 23.46 grams

Maximum Diameter: 32.23 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: M OPEL ANTONINVS DIADVMENIANVS CAES, bare-headed, draped and cuirassed bust of Diadumenian right.

Reverse: SPES PVBLICA S C, Spes advancing left, holding flower in extended right hand and raising drapery of her dress behind.

References: RIC 219; BMCRE 155-7 and pl. 84, 7 (same obverse die); C 23; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values II*) 7454.

Grade: good F and rare, but with some surface porosity and with surface indentations above the prince's head and on the 'V' above the head of Spes

Historical & Numismatic Note: Born in AD 208, Marcus Opellius Diadumenianus was the son of Marcus Opellius Macrinus who ascended the imperial throne following the assassination of Caracalla in April 217. Macrinus, a native of Caesarea in Mauretania, was legal adviser to Plautianus, praetorian prefect under Septimius Severus from 197 to 205, before being appointed to the praetorian prefecture himself in 212. In this capacity, he accompanied Caracalla on the Parthian expedition of 216-17. Fearing that he was losing the emperor's favor, he became implicated in a conspiracy that resulted in Caracalla's assassination in Mesopotamia. After a delay of several days, Macrinus was hailed as the new emperor by the army. His son Diadumenian, although only nine years of age, received the rank of Caesar and was granted a share in the imperial coinage. The young prince's portrait appears on a full range of denominations in gold, silver and *aes*. Doubtless, this move was intended to focus attention on the establishment of a new dynasty and assert the stability of a regime that was tainted with its predecessor's blood. During his 14-month reign, spent entirely in the East, Macrinus had to face the wrath of the Parthians provoked by his predecessor's treacherous behavior. Having concluded a somewhat ignominious peace, he was then confronted by a revolt engineered by the late emperor's aunt, Julia Maesa, elder sister of Julia Domna. This was eventually to lead to Macrinus' overthrow and execution and the restoration of the Severan dynasty in the person of Maesa's grandson, Elagabalus. In an attempt to demonstrate continuity with the old dynasty, Macrinus had adopted the name of Severus and added it to his own, as attested by his coin inscriptions. At some point during his reign, he had also given Diadumenian the additional name of Antoninus, which appears prominently on the coinage. In the final days of the regime, the young prince was further elevated to the rank of Augustus and co-emperor with his father but this only sealed his fate following the victory of Elagabalus. He was arrested while attempting to flee to Parthia and brought back to Antioch where he was executed. The regular coinage of Macrinus and Diadumenian was all produced by the Rome mint, though the emperor never visited the capital during his reign. On the reverse of this brass sestertius of Diadumenian (worth one-quarter of the silver denarius) the "Hope of the State" is proclaimed, indicating the young prince's role as eventual heir to his father's throne.

DAVID R. SEAR / A.C.C.S. P. O. Box 7314, Porter Ranch, CA. 91327, U.S.A.

Phone (818) 993-7363 **Mobile** (818) 312-4903 **E-mail** david@davidrsear.com **Web site** www.davidrsear.com

The information provided on this certificate has been researched in good faith by the signatory utilizing 59 years of professional experience in ancient numismatics. However, no guarantee is made regarding the accuracy of any of the opinions or data conveyed above and no liability of any kind is assumed. It should be borne in mind that the authentication and grading of ancient coins is subjective and opinions can, and do, vary among experts.

Ref. 574CR/RI/E/OB