

**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 29, 2017

*David R. Sear*

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Salonina (wife of Gallienus)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: circa AD 262

Weight: 11.64 grams

Maximum Diameter: 27.98 millimeters

Die Axis: ↓

Obverse: CORNELIA SALONINA AVG, diademed and draped bust of Salonina right, her hair in ridges and looped in plait on neck and up back of head.

Reverse: PVDICITIA S C, Pudicitia standing left, drawing out her veil with right hand and holding transverse scepter in left.

References: Göbl & Alram (MIR 36), 490y and pl. 42 (citing the only other known specimen of this type from the same dies = Gemini auction, 11 Jan. 2005, lot 430); cf. RIC 51 and Cohen 93, for an apparent As ("M.B.") of this type, cited from Paris (Bibliothèque Nationale).

Grade: VF and very rare, only the second known specimen, smoothing in the fields, struck on an unusually small, thin flan

Historical & Numismatic Note: known also as Chrysogone ('begotten of gold') Cornelia Salonina was the wife of the Emperor Gallienus and mother of the two Caesars, Valerian Junior and Saloninus, both of whom perished during their parents' lifetime. Her Alexandrian tetradrachm issues began only in regnal year 3 of Valerian and Gallienus (AD 255-56) which may be the date of her elevation to the rank of *Augusta*. A woman of some erudition, she and her husband were both members of the philosopher Plotinus' circle of intellectuals in Rome and it is possible that she also had Christian sympathies. In AD 268, the empress was probably a witness to her husband's murder during the siege of Milan and her subsequent fate is unknown. An extensive coinage was issued in Salonina's name, both during the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus and throughout the period of her husband's sole rule. It was on a larger scale than for any empress since the time of Julia Domna at the beginning of the 3rd century. This very rare sestertius, only the second known specimen of the type, is struck on an unusually small and thin flan. Its weight is only 11.64 grams whereas the average for sestertii of this reign is about 17.50 grams. It is struck from the same dies as the other known example (see references above) and the same obverse die is shared with a sestertius with reverse PIETAS AVGG S C (Göbl 230d) and silver and bronze medallions with reverse AEQVITAS PVBLICA, the three Monetæ (Göbl 314-315). Göbl dated this sestertius to AD 262, the year prior to the cessation of the regular production of bronze coins at Rome. It appears to have been the final sestertius type struck for Salonina. Pudicitia, the goddess who personified modesty and chastity, was a favorite type on the coins of empresses.

**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](mailto:david@davidrsear.com) **Web site** [www.davidrsear.com](http://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. 576CR/RI/E/OV**