

DAVID R. SEAR

Certificate of Authenticity

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This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by

Issued to: Jens Feierabend

On: May 26, 2017

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Nero Claudius Drusus (posthumous issue under his son, the Emperor Claudius)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: circa AD 41-2

Weight: 23.90 grams

Maximum Diameter: 34.96 millimeters

Die Axis: ↓

Obverse: NERO CLAVDIVS DRVSVS GERMANICVS IMP, bare head of Drusus left.

Reverse: TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG P M TR P IMP S C, Claudius (?), bare-headed and togate, seated left on curule chair amidst arms, holding branch in extended right hand.

References: RIC 93; BMCRE 157; CBN 125; Cohen 8; Sear (*Roman Coins and Their Values I*) 1896.

Grade: VF with nice brown patina, though with minor patches of surface erosion on both sides

Historical & Numismatic Note: Nero Claudius Drusus, the younger brother of Tiberius, was born in 38 BC and was brought up in the household of Augustus. He married Antonia, the daughter of Mark Antony and Octavia, about 16 BC by whom he had two sons, Germanicus and the future Emperor Claudius. Augustus evidently considered him the ablest of his generals and, after campaigning for several seasons with his brother Tiberius, he was entrusted with the projected conquest of Germany. He achieved considerable success during the course of four campaigns (12-9 BC) but following a fall from his horse in summer camp, he fell ill and died at the age of only 29. His Roman coinage, in gold, silver, and orichalcum, was all issued posthumously more than half a century after his death, during the reign of his younger son Claudius. This sestertius depicts the portrait of the young general on the obverse, while the reverse has a togate figure seated amidst military arms. This is normally described as the Emperor Claudius, younger son of Nero Claudius Drusus, under whom the coin was struck. However, it could equally well be a depiction of the deceased general himself. The omission of the title P P (= *Pater Patriae*, "Father of his Country") at the end of the reverse legend indicates that the coin was struck prior to the emperor's assumption of this title in AD 42. Soon after the issue that includes P P in the legend, there was a cessation in the production of *aes* coinage at the mint of Rome. It was not resumed for two decades thereafter, until the latter part of Nero's reign, though there was large-scale production of imitative *aes* of Claudian types, some of it possibly officially sanctioned in order to provide the currency needs of the newly conquered province of Britain.

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