

DAVID R. SEAR

Certificate of Authenticity

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This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by

Issued to: Jens Feierabend

On: June 4, 2017

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Hostilian (as Augustus with Trebonianus Gallus, AD 251)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 251

Weight & Maximum Diameter: 14.69 grams 28.37 millimeters

Obverse: IMP CAE C VAL HOS MES QVINTVS AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Hostilian right.

Reverse: SECVRITAS AVGG S C, Securitas standing facing, looking right, her legs crossed, placing right hand on head and resting left arm on column.

References: RIC (Decius) 225; Hunter p. 254, 3 and pl. 81; Cohen 60; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values III*) 9593.

Grade: F and rare

Historical & Numismatic Note: Gaius Valens Hostilianus Messius Quintus was the son of Trajan Decius and Herennia Etruscilla and younger brother of Herennius Etruscus. Early in AD 251, Hostilian was elevated by his father to the rank of Caesar, an honor which he shared with his elder brother who had been promoted the previous year. It seemed that a new imperial dynasty had been firmly established, but storm clouds were gathering on the Empire's northern frontier and in the early summer, Decius and Herennius were obliged to give battle to the invading Goths at Abrittus. Both were slain in the engagement, the first rulers of Rome to fall in battle against a foreign enemy in the 278-year history of the Empire. Because of his youth, Hostilian was not in a position to enforce his succession to the throne and the army proclaimed the governor of Moesia, Trebonianus Gallus, as the new emperor. Gallus appeared to act with consideration towards the surviving members of the late emperor's family and Hostilian was elevated to the rank of Augustus and co-emperor. Gallus' own son, Volusian, now took Hostilian's place as Caesar. Just a few months later, however, the unfortunate Hostilian supposedly succumbed to the plague, which was raging in Italy at the time, and Volusian was promoted to be his father's full colleague in the exercise of the imperial power. Hostilian's coinage is divided between his issues as Caesar, under his father, and those produced during his brief period as Augustus with Trebonianus Gallus. This rare brass sestertius belongs to the latter group and features on the reverse the goddess Securitas, personifying the concept of imperial confidence and security — a somewhat fanciful notion at this time. The plural ending of the accompanying legend ("AVGG" = *Augustorum*) is indicative of the joint rule of Hostilian with his father's successor, Trebonianus Gallus.

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

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