

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: August 30, 2017

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Clodius Albinus (as Caesar under Septimius Severus, AD 193-195)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 194

Weight: 21.56 grams

Maximum Diameter: 29.19 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: D CLOD SEPT ALBIN CAES (mostly illegible), bare head of Clodius Albinus right.

Reverse: MINER PACIF COS II S C (mostly illegible), Minerva standing left, holding olive-branch in extended right hand and resting left on shield at her side, spear propped against left arm.

References: RIC 54(a); BMCRE 535 and pl. 23, 4; Cohen 49; Hill (*The Coinage of Septimius Severus and his Family of the Mint of Rome, A.D. 193-217*) 120; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values II*) 6151.

Grade: nearly F/fair

Historical & Numismatic Note: Decimus Clodius Septimius Albinus was born of a wealthy family in Hadrumetum, North Africa, some time in the decade of the 140s. He served with distinction under Marcus Aurelius and Commodus and at the time of the latter's assassination was governor of Britain. The furor aroused in the provinces by the disgraceful elevation to the imperial throne of Didius Julianus, at the end of March AD 193, led the army in Britain to hail their commander as emperor. Simultaneously, Septimius Severus in Pannonia and Pescennius Niger in Syria were proclaimed under similar circumstances. Severus had the advantage of being closest to Italy and lost no time in advancing on the capital, which he occupied in early June. Feeling the greater threat was from his eastern rival, Niger, Severus offered Albinus the rank of Caesar, which, foolishly, he accepted. Accordingly, the mint of Rome issued coins in Albinus' name in all metals. This orichalcum (brass) sestertius has the reverse type of *Minerva Pacifera* ("Minerva, the bringer of peace"), an expression of hope that stability would soon be restored to the Roman world through the military strength of Septimius Severus and his Caesar Albinus. In reality, as soon as Severus had eliminated Niger in the East he revealed his true intentions by elevating his own son Antoninus (Caracalla) to the rank of Caesar and then declaring Albinus a public enemy (AD 195). Albinus countered by assuming the rank of Augustus and opening his own mint at the provincial center of Lugdunum in Gaul. The final conflict came early in the year 196 when Albinus was defeated by Severus in a bloody battle fought near Lugdunum. Although he survived the battle, Albinus considered his position hopeless and shortly thereafter took his own life.

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