

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: August 31, 2017

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Diva Mariniana (wife of Valerian, † before AD 253)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 253-4

Weight: 15.54 grams

Maximum Diameter: 26.78 millimeters

Die Axis: ↗

Obverse: DIVAE MARINIANAE, diademed, veiled and draped bust of Mariniana right.

Reverse: CONSECRATIO S C, peacock standing facing, head right, its tail in splendour.

References: cf. RIC 9 and pl. I, 13 (obverse misdescribed); Cohen 7; Mazzini IV, p. 46, 7 and pl. XVI; Hunter IV, p. 12, 8 var. (peacock's head left); Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values III*) 10073 var. (peacock's head left).

Grade: F and rare

Historical & Numismatic Note: Mariniana is presumed to have been the wife of Valerian and the mother of Gallienus, though the evidence for this identification is entirely numismatic. Confirmation of the date of her coinage is provided by a provincial bronze of Viminacium in Moesia Superior that was issued in the 15th year of the city's colonial era, which equates to AD 253-4. The scarcity of Mariniana's Roman coin denominations would indicate that they all belong to the same period of issue. As her coinage was issued posthumously and her name lacks the title of Augusta, it must be assumed that she died prior to her husband's elevation to imperial status. The reverse types of all her Roman coins depict a peacock, the bird sacred to the goddess Juno (just as the eagle was sacred to her consort Jupiter). The bird either appears alone (standing facing or walking to right) or is depicted flying aloft, bearing on its back the seated figure of the deified empress.

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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