

**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: October 31, 2017

*David R. Sear*

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Pertinax (AD 193, January 1-March 28)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 193, January 1-March 28

Weight: 21.07 grams

Maximum Diameter: 29.90 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: IMP CAES P HELV PERTINAX AVG, laureate head of Pertinax right.

Reverse: PROVIDENTIAE DEORVM COS II S C, Providentia standing left, raising right hand towards star in upper field to left, her left hand at her side.

References: Woodward ("The Coinage of Pertinax", *Numismatic Chronicle* 1957, pl. XII, 1 (same dies, obv. 11/rev. I.D, citing specimen in Paris); RIC 22; BMCRE 28-30 and pl. 2, 3; Cohen 52; Cayon (*Los Sestercios del Imperio Romano*) 17; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values*) 6055.

Grade: F/fair, with a pleasing portrait of this short-lived emperor, shallow surface cut across lower reverse field

Historical & Numismatic Note: Born of humble parentage in AD 126, Publius Helvius Pertinax pursued a successful military career and was eventually admitted to the Senate under Marcus Aurelius. He became one of the Empire's foremost generals under Aurelius and Commodus and in AD 185 was appointed governor of Britain, at a time when there was much disaffection amongst the legionary garrison of the island province. He held the consulship twice, the second occasion being in AD 192 in which year he also held the post of city prefect of Rome. The emperor Commodus was murdered on the night of December 31, 192. It is unclear whether Pertinax was implicated in the plot leading to the assassination, but the following day the vacant throne was offered to him by the praetorian prefect, Quintus Aemilius Laetus. During his brief reign, Pertinax attempted to redress some of the ills that had befallen the state through the excesses of his predecessor. However, the economic measures that he was obliged to adopt made him very unpopular, especially with the greedy soldiery, and on March 28 he was murdered in the imperial palace by a band of mutinous praetorians. He had reigned for less than three months. The types of Pertinax's coinage are highly distinctive and we can surely recognize in their selection the personal involvement of the emperor. *Providentia Deorum*, "the foresight of the gods" [in bringing such a worthy new occupant to the imperial throne] is one of the more conventional reverse legends of this reign. However, the representation of the goddess reaching towards a star is most unusual. A rarer variant of the type depicts the goddess with both hands uplifted.

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