

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: February 6, 2018

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Tiberius (AD 14-37)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Lugdunum

Date: AD 10-11 (under Augustus)

Weight: 22.06 grams

Maximum Diameter: 36.43 millimeters

Die Axis: ↓

Obverse: TI CAESAR AVGVSTI F IMPERATOR V, bare head of Tiberius left.

Reverse: ROM ET AVG the great Altar of Roma and Augustus at Lugdunum, flanked by columns surmounted by statues of Victory right and left, the altar ornamented with row of uncertain objects along the top and three wreaths on the front panel.

References: RIC (Augustus) 240; BMCRE (Augustus) 572-3; CBN (Augustus) 1737; Cayon (*Los Sestercios del Imperio Romano*) 4; Cohen 28; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values I*) 1753.

Grade: fair, very rare but the surface considerably eroded

Historical & Numismatic Note: Tiberius was born in 42 BC, the elder son of the aristocratic Tiberius Claudius Nero, whose name he bore, and Livia Drusilla. When he was only 4 years of age, his parents divorced and Livia married the Triumvir Octavian, who was later to become Rome's first emperor under the name of Augustus. As a young man, Tiberius proved himself a most able general and he campaigned extensively in many parts of the Empire in a military career spanning more than three decades (20 BC—AD 12). However, his relationship with his stepfather Augustus was always strained, and from 6 BC until AD 2 he even went into voluntary exile on the island of Rhodes. Nevertheless, on the death in AD 4 of Gaius Caesar, son of Agrippa and Augustus' daughter Julia, the emperor was reluctantly obliged to acknowledge Tiberius as heir to the throne, and on the passing of Augustus a decade later Tiberius became Rome's second emperor. Although an able administrator, the new emperor was suspicious and reclusive by nature and always bore a resentment for the unfair treatment which he felt he had received from his stepfather. His reign was marred by a series of tragedies within the imperial family and by the machinations of the powerful praetorian prefect Sejanus who, prior to his downfall in AD 31, was probably aiming at usurping the imperial power itself. In AD 26, Tiberius once more retired to an island retreat, this time Capreae, and never again set foot in Rome during the remaining eleven years of his life. This sestertius was issued from the great imperial mint of Lugdunum, in Gaul, during the closing years of the reign of Augustus. It depicts Tiberius in his early 50s and the obverse inscription records his fifth imperial acclamation. The reverse shows the Altar of Lugdunum, dedicated by Augustus on August 1, 10 BC, and the invariable design for the *aes* coinage of this mint. This series was issued in the names of both Augustus and Tiberius and in a range of denominations, from the sestertius down to the semis. The sestertii are of considerable rarity and are generally found in a very worn state of preservation.

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