

**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 10, 2018

*David R. Sear*

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Maximinus I (AD 235-238)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 236-8

Weight: 21.64 grams

Maximum Diameter: 32.34 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG GERM, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Maximinus right.

Reverse: VICTORIA GERMANICA (around), S C (in exergue), Maximinus, in military attire, standing left, his right hand raised, holding spear in left, German captive seated left at his feet, looking back, emperor crowned by Victory standing left behind him, also holding palm.

References: RIC 93; BMCRE 198 and pl. 40; Cohen 114; MIR 26-5.

Grade: VF, unpatinated but an attractive example of this very scarce commemorative type

Historical & Numismatic Note: Gaius Julius Verus Maximinus was born of Thracian peasant stock and, like many of his fellow countrymen, joined the ranks of the Roman army. Because of his legendary size and strength, he attracted the attention of the Emperor Septimius Severus who promoted him to the rank of centurion. Thereafter, his military career proceeded apace and by AD 235 he was commanding a force of Pannonian recruits on the Rhine. It was at this time that disaffection broke out against the pacifist policies of the Emperor Severus Alexander. The troops mutinied, murdered Alexander and his mother the Empress Julia Mamaea, and proclaimed Maximinus in their place. The first Roman emperor to rise from the ranks, Maximinus possessed considerable military talents and great daring as a commander. He inflicted crushing defeats on the German tribes north of the Rhine, the recently discovered battlefield at the Harzhorn in Lower Saxony bearing eloquent testimony to the ferocity of these campaigns. For this he was awarded the title "Germanicus" which appears on all his coins in the latter part of the reign. Towards the end of March, 238, rebellion broke out in North Africa headed by the elderly governor M. Antonius Gordianus and his son of the same name. The uprising collapsed in less than a month, but the Roman Senate had already committed itself to the rebel cause and was left with no alternative but to elevate two of its own number, Balbinus and Pupienus, to oppose Maximinus. The enraged emperor immediately invaded Italy but, fortunately for the Senate and its champions, his advance was checked by the stubborn resistance of Aquileia. Disaffection broke out amongst Maximinus' troops and he and his son, the Caesar Maximus, were murdered as they slept after their midday meal (May/June 238). Many of the coin types of this reign were merely standard designs with no special significance, and one can imagine that this uneducated ruler took little interest in the message conveyed by the imperial coinage. This sestertius, however, is specifically commemorative of Maximinus' notable victories over the German tribes and proclaims the "VICTORIA GERMANICA" on its reverse as well as according the emperor the title "GERM(anicus)" in the obverse inscription. A German captive seated at the emperor's feet symbolizes the defeat of the barbarian tribes. The emperor's portrait is in a style typical of the later issues of the reign and shows him with an exaggeratedly prominent chin, doubtless an accurate reflection of his intimidating appearance.

**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](mailto:david@davidrsear.com) **Web site** [www.davidrsear.com](http://www.davidrsear.com)

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