

**DAVID R. SEAR**

# *Certificate of Authenticity*

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*This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by*

Issued to: Jens G. Feierabend

On: March 28, 2019

*David R. Sear*

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Maximus (Caesar under Maximinus I, AD 235-238)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 236-8

Weight: 20.36 grams

Maximum Diameter: 32.13 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: MAXIMVS CAES GERM, bare-headed and draped bust of Maximus right.

Reverse: PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS S C, Maximus, in military attire, standing left, holding rod pointing downwards in right hand and transverse spear in left, two standards behind.

References: RIC 13; BMCRE 213; Cohen 14; MIR 37-5; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values III*) 8411.

Grade: an attractive VF with excellent portrait, unpatinated

Historical & Numismatic Note: Gaius Julius Verus Maximus was the son of the Emperor Maximinus I (AD 235-238) and was probably given the rank of Caesar at the time of his father's accession. He accompanied Maximinus during the successful campaigns against the German tribes and, like the emperor, received the title 'Germanicus' in 236. Following the rebellion in Rome of Balbinus and Pupienus (April, 238) Maximinus and his son invaded Italy to put down the uprising and punish the Senate, but their advance was checked by the stubborn resistance of Aquileia. Disaffection broke out amongst the emperor's troops and he and Maximus were both murdered by mutineers as they slept in camp after their midday meal (June 24, 238). Coinage in the name of Maximus was on a very limited scale. It would seem that all six *officinae* of the Rome mint were devoted to the striking of coinage for the emperor himself, with issues for Maximus being merely a by-product of one of the workshops. The series may be divided into two principal issues, before and after the granting of the title 'Germanicus' in 236. This brass sestertius (worth one-quarter of the silver denarius) belongs to the later issue and features on the reverse a representation of Maximus as 'Prince of the Youth' (*Princeps Iuventutis*), an honorary title traditionally bestowed on the heir to the throne.

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