

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: April 3, 2019

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Philip II (AD 247-249)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 247

Weight: 21.76 grams

Maximum Diameter: 29 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Philip II right.

Reverse: LIBERALITAS AVGG III S C, Philip I and Philip II, togate, seated left on curule chairs side by side, each extending right hand, Philip I (in foreground) holding short sceptre in left.

References: RIC 267(a); Hunter 29; Cohen 18; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Value III*) 9279.

Grade: good VF with light brown patina

Historical & Numismatic Note: Marcus Julius Philippus, son of Philip I and Otacilia Severa, was born *circa* AD 237 and was given the rank of Caesar soon after his father became emperor in 244. Three years later, though still only about ten, he was further promoted to the rank of Augustus and co-emperor. Philip I was defeated and killed by Decius at the battle of Verona (September, 249) and his son shared his fate. It is unclear whether the twelve-year-old co-emperor was present at the engagement or whether he remained with his mother in Rome and was executed by the praetorians when news of Decius' victory reached the capital. This sestertius belongs to the period following Philip II's elevation to the status of co-Augustus. The reverse records the third imperial largess of the reign (*Liberalitas Augustorum iii*), a donation distributed to the citizens of Rome at the time of the younger Philip's elevation to senior status, thus establishing the anticipated stability of the new regime. Of the six officinae (workshops) of the Rome mint, one (the third) was allocated to the production of coinage in the name of the younger Philip. Four of the other five (first, second, fifth and sixth) worked for Philip I, whilst the fourth *officina* struck solely in the name of the Empress Otacilia Severa.

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