

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: June 7, 2019

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Germanicus Caesar († AD 19, posthumous issue under his son Caligula)

Denomination: copper as

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 37/38

Weight: 11.10 grams

Maximum Diameter: 28.13 millimeters

Die Axis: ↙

Obverse: GERMANICVS CAESAR TI AVGVST F DIVI AVGN, bare head of Germanicus left.

Reverse: C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT around large S C.

References: RIC (Caligula) 35; BMCRE (Caligula) 49; CBN (Caligula) 73; Cohen 1; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values I*) 1821.

Grade: a pleasing VF, some minor surface flaws in reverse field

Historical & Numismatic Note: Germanicus was the elder son of Nero Claudius Drusus and Antonia and was born in 15 BC. He lost his father six years later and in AD 4 was adopted by his uncle Tiberius, heir to the imperial throne of Augustus. His military exploits in Germany early in Tiberius' reign further enhanced his reputation and popularity, his clear intention being to emulate his father's achievements in the area. Recalled to Rome by Tiberius in AD 17, Germanicus celebrated a magnificent triumph on 26 May. He was then dispatched to the East to take up a new command with extraordinary powers over all the eastern provinces. He reduced Cappadocia and Commagene to the status of provinces but then offended Tiberius by taking an unauthorized pleasure trip to Egypt, a country that had been barred to senators by Augustus. On returning to Antioch he quarreled with Piso, the governor of Syria, and soon afterwards was stricken with a mysterious illness that resulted in his death on 10 October AD 19. Piso was suspected of being implicated in the sudden and unexpected demise of the popular prince and later committed suicide, though he always protested his innocence. The Roman coinage in the name of Germanicus is all posthumous, the earlier issues belonging to the reign of his son the Emperor Caligula (AD 37-41), the later to that of his brother the Emperor Claudius (AD 41-54). This copper as (worth one-fourth of the orichalcum sestertius and one-sixteenth of the silver denarius) was struck by Caligula in the first year of his reign, less than twenty years after his father's death.

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