

DAVID R. SEAR

Certificate of Authenticity

issued by the Ancient Coin Certification Service (A.C.C.S.)



This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by

Issued to: Jens G. Feierabend

On: June 3, 2019

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Hadrian (AD 117-138)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: circa AD 123

Weight: 24.42 grams

Maximum Diameter: 33.14 millimeters

Die Axis: ↓

Obverse: IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HADRIANVS AVG P M TR P COS III, laureate and draped bust of Hadrian right.

Reverse: MONETA AVGVSTI S C, Moneta standing left, holding scales in extended right hand and cornucopiae at her side in left.

References: RIC 586(c); BMCRE 1196; Cohen 974; Hill (*The Undated Coins of Rome, A.D. 98-148*) 240; Sear (*RCTV II*) 3611.

Grade: VF/good F and nicely toned, an excellent early portrait of Hadrian

Historical & Numismatic Note: Publius Aelius Hadrianus was born in AD 76 of a family that lived in the Spanish city of Italica. His father died when he was only nine and he entered the childless household of the future emperor Trajan, who also came from Italica. In AD 100, he married Vibia Sabina, the daughter of Trajan's niece Matidia. It thus seemed that he had been marked out for the imperial succession though no formal adoption ever took place. Great mystery surrounded the circumstances of his accession, which took place in the East. News of Trajan's sudden death in Cilicia was withheld for several days during which time the Empress Plotina announced that her dying husband had confided to her in secret his desire to adopt Hadrian as his heir. No one wished to challenge the word of the highly respected imperial consort and a somewhat reluctant Senate followed the army in ratifying the new emperor's accession. Hadrian had a keen interest in experiencing first hand the diverse peoples and places of his vast Empire. Accordingly, during the two decades of his reign he undertook three great journeys in which he visited almost every province over which he ruled. Many of his coin types are connected with these imperial tours making the coinage of this reign one of the largest and most varied in the entire Roman Imperial series. This orichalcum sestertius (worth one quarter of the silver denarius) is dated by Hill to AD 123. The reverse depicts Moneta, presiding goddess of the Roman mint, who is shown holding a pair of scales, symbolic of the care taken to maintain the integrity of the currency. This deity made her first appearance on the Roman Imperial coinage under Domitian, though her head occurs on several denarius types of the late Republic (cf. Crawford 396/1 and 464/2).

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 **Web site** www.davidrsear.com

The information provided on this certificate has been researched in good faith by the signatory utilizing 61 years of professional experience in ancient numismatics. However, no guarantee is made regarding the accuracy of any of the opinions or data conveyed above and no liability of any kind is assumed. It should be borne in mind that the authentication and grading of ancient coins is subjective and opinions can, and do, vary among experts.

Ref. 906CR/RI/N/R