

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: July 27, 2020

David R. Sear

State: Roman Republic (Imperial period)

Issuing Authority: Octavian (with Divus Julius Caesar, †44 BC)

Denomination: bronze sestertius or dupondius

Mint: uncertain Italian mint, possibly in the south

Date: 38 BC

Weight: 19.71 grams

Maximum Diameter: 30.21 millimeters

Die Axis: ←

Obverse: CAESAR DIVI F, bare head of Octavian right, with slight beard.

Reverse: DIVOS IVLIVS, wreathed head of Julius Caesar right

References: RPC 620; Crawford 535/1; Sear (*Roman Emperors*) 308; FITA, pp. 49-50 and pl. i, 14; Sydenham 1335; BMCRR Gaul 106; Babelon Julia 98-9; Cohen I, p. 22, 3.

Grade: F

Historical & Numismatic Note: the remarkable political career of Rome's first emperor spanned almost six decades. Adopted as heir by his great-uncle Julius Caesar, Gaius Octavius was only 18 at the time of the dictator's assassination on the Ides of March 44 BC. By astute political maneuverings he managed to hold his own against his principal rival, Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony), and the two ultimately formed an alliance (the Second Triumvirate) which included M. Aemilius Lepidus. By 31 BC, Octavius, now known as Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, had achieved a position of supreme power in the Roman world by his celebrated naval victory over the forces of Antony and Queen Cleopatra of Egypt (battle of Actium, 2 September). Under the terms of the constitutional reorganization of 27 BC, at which time he was named Augustus, he in effect became emperor of Rome, though in deference to senatorial sensibilities his precise position was only vaguely defined and his powers were expressed in terms of traditional republican magistracies. This interesting bronze issue is not easy to date with any degree of precision and even its place of mintage remains uncertain. It has traditionally been assigned to a Gallic mint but provenances would seem to support an Italian origin. Octavian was certainly active in the south of the peninsula during 38 BC and it is possible that these issues were connected with his campaign against the renegade Sextus Pompey. It seems reasonable to associate the selection of the type with the fifth anniversary of Caesar's deification, hence Octavian's slight beard as an indication of mourning. A contemporary type has the inscription DIVOS IVLIVS within a wreath on the reverse but lacks the dictator's portrait. Whatever its precise origin, this *aes* coinage may be viewed as supplementary to the gold and silver issues bearing the name of Marcus Agrippa as consul designate, with which it shares a number of important characteristics. The propaganda value of these coins to Octavian, linking him to the deified dictator and according him the title "son of god" (*Divi filius*), would have been especially great at a time when his partnership with Mark Antony was coming to be recognized as a rivalry which would eventually have to be settled by force of arms.

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 sixty-two 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. 004CO/RI/D/OD