

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: July 28, 2020

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Livia (mother of Tiberius, as 'Pietas')

Denomination: orichalcum dupondius

Mint: Rome

Date: struck AD 23 under her son Tiberius in the name of her grandson Drusus Caesar

Weight: 13.63 grams

Diameter & Die Axis: 30.74 millimeters ↓

Description: PIETAS below veiled, diademed and draped bust of Livia, as Pietas, right / DRVSVS CAESAR TI AVGVSTI F TR POT ITER around large S C.

References: RIC (Tiberius) 43 ; BMCRE (Tiberius) 98; CBN (Tiberius) 74; Cohen 1; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values I*) 1741.

Grade: F/good F, 'Tiber' patina, pitted surfaces

Historical & Numismatic Note: Livia Drusilla was the daughter of M. Livius Drusus Claudianus and Alfidia and was born on 30 January 58 BC. At about the age of sixteen she was married to Tiberius Claudius Nero by whom she had two sons — the future Emperor Tiberius and Nero Claudius Drusus, father of Germanicus and the Emperor Claudius. After a union lasting only four years, she was divorced by her husband in 39 BC in order to facilitate her marriage to the powerful and ambitious triumvir Octavian, later to be Rome's first emperor under the name Augustus. Their union was happy though childless and was destined to endure for 53 years, until Augustus' death in AD 14. Under the terms of Augustus' will, she was adopted in the Julia gens and renamed Julia Augusta. During the reign of her son Tiberius, she was obliged to exert more openly the political influence she had previously wielded in a covert manner. This brought her into conflict with the emperor and may well have been one of the contributory factors in his remarkable decision to leave Rome in AD 26 and retire permanently to the island of Capreae (*Capri*). Livia died three years later at the age of 87 and it is an indication of Tiberius' bitterness towards his mother that he refused to execute her will or authorize her deification. The latter omission was, however, repaired some years later under her grandson, the Emperor Claudius (AD 41-54). In AD 22-23, during the 24th year of his tribunician power, Tiberius issued a remarkable series of orichalcum dupondii bearing the obverse inscriptions IVSTITIA, PIETAS, and SALVS AVGVSTA, each accompanied by a female portrait bust. Although she is not specifically named on these coins, it seems impossible to identify the lady in question as anyone other than the Empress Livia (Julia) herself. Not only was she the most powerful and influential woman in Rome, but she is also known to have been popular with the Senate by whose nominal authority the coins were issued (hence the 'S C' = *Senatus Consulto* on reverse). This type bears the name of the emperor's son Drusus Caesar on reverse and records the second year of his tribunician power (TR POT ITER). He was destined to die shortly after the issue, doubtless a victim of the ruthlessly ambitious praetorian prefect Sejanus.

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