

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 29, 2020

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Diva Paulina (deceased wife of Maximinus I)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 235-6

Weight: 23.46 grams

Maximum Diameter: 31.98 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: DIVA PAVLINA, veiled and draped bust of Paulina right.

Reverse: CONSEC RATIO S C, empress seated left on back of peacock flying right, her right hand extended, holding sceptre in left.

References: MIR 38-5; RIC 3; BMCRE 129-34 and pl. 37; Cohen 3; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values III*) 8401.

Grade: a most attractive VF with smooth brown patina, struck on a full, thick flan

Historical & Numismatic Note: Gaius Julius Verus Maximinus was born of Thracian peasant stock and, like many of his fellow-countrymen, he joined the Roman army to seek his fortune. His career received a significant boost when his extraordinary size and strength attracted the attention of the Emperor Septimius Severus who promoted him to the rank of centurion. Thereafter, his military career proceeded apace and by AD 235 he was commanding a force of Pannonian recruits on the Rhine. It was at this time that disaffection broke out against the pacifist policies of the Emperor Severus Alexander. The troops mutinied, murdered Alexander and his mother the Empress Julia Mamaea, and proclaimed Maximinus in their place. He was the first Roman emperor to have risen from the ranks and, despite his humble origins and uncouth manner, no one could doubt Maximinus' exceptional military abilities. His reign was brief, however, and he and his son Maximus Caesar ultimately fell victim to their own men following the outbreak of a rebellion in North Africa and Italy instigated by the Roman Senate. History is silent regarding the name of the wife and mother of Maximinus and Maximus, but the numismatic evidence clearly indicates that Diva Paulina was the lady in question. A dated bronze coin in her name has been recorded from the Cilician mint of Anazarbus (Sear, *GICTV* 3559). Unlike her regular coinage, the Greek inscription on this posthumous provincial issue accords Paulina the additional title of Augusta. This would appear to indicate that she was still alive at the time of her husband's accession on 22 March 235 but that she died very soon afterwards. The single surviving inscription in which her name is mentioned (*CIL* x. 5054) also grants her the Imperial title as well as providing a fuller version of her name — *Diva Caecilia Paulina Pia Augusta*.

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