

**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 Feierabend

On: December 29, 2021

*David R. Sear*

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Manlia Scantilla (wife of Didius Julianus)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: AD 193 (April-May)

Weight: 20.89 grams

Maximum Diameter: 29.96 millimeters

Die Axis: ↑

Obverse: MANLIA·SCA[N] — TILLA·AVG, draped bust of Manlia Scantilla right, her hair waved in vertical lines and fastened in large bun behind.

Reverse: [IVNO REGINA] (around) S — C (in field), Juno standing left, holding patera and sceptre, peacock at feet.

References: Woodward ("The Coinage of Didius Julianus and his Family," in *Num. Chron.* 1961), obv. die 1/rev. die G; RIC (Didius Julianus) 18a and pl. IV, 1 (same obv. die) = BMCRE (Didius Julianus) 32 and pl. 4, 4; Cayon 2; Cohen 6; Sear (*Roman Coins and Their Values II*) 6083.

Grade: F/fair, a pleasing example of this rare issue despite its worn state

Historical & Numismatic Note: almost nothing is known of the origins of Manlia Scantilla, wife of the ephemeral emperor Didius Julianus, though she was clearly of aristocratic birth. She was undoubtedly ambitious and would have encouraged her husband in his bid for the throne following the assassination of Pertinax on 28 March AD 193. Both she, and her daughter Didia Clara, a noted society beauty, promptly received the title of Augusta on Julianus' accession and the volume of coinage issued in their names, in comparison with that of the emperor himself, was surprisingly large, though all are rare today. Aurei, denarii, sestertii, and dupondii were all produced in their names, though the reverse types were limited to one for each of the empresses — Juno Regina for Scantilla and Hilaritas for Clara. Unlike his predecessor, Julianus also had a very limited repertoire of reverse types — Concordia Militum, Fortuna, and togate figure of the emperor as *Rector Orbis*. Julianus was soon replaced on the imperial throne by Septimius Severus, governor of Pannonia, who invaded Italy and took possession of the capital. Deserted by his former supporters, Julianus was assassinated at the beginning of June after a reign lasting only 66 days. The former empresses were permitted to retire into the obscurity of private life; Scantilla is reported to have died soon after the downfall of her husband, whilst the fate of Clara is unknown.

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