

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: April 5, 2022

David R. Sear

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Volusian (AD 251-253)

Denomination: orichalcum sestertius

Mint: Rome

Date: circa AD 252

Weight: 20.90 grams

Maximum Diameter: 28.74 millimeters

Die Axis: ↓

Obverse: IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Volusian right.

Reverse: IVNONI MARTIALI (around), S — C (in field), domed temple or shrine on podium of three steps, showing two columns in foreground and two more in background, containing seated figure of Juno facing, holding patera and sceptre.

References: RIC 252a; Hunter III, p. 41 cvii; Cohen 41; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values*) 9788.

Grade: VF/F, some tooling on reverse

Historical & Numismatic Note: C. Vibius Afinius Gallus Vendumnianus Volusianus was son of Trebonianus Gallus and Baebiana. His date of birth is uncertain but from his coin portraits, it would appear to have been in the early to middle years of the reign of Severus Alexander. He was given the junior rank of Caesar about July, AD 251, soon after his father had become emperor following the deaths of Trajan Decius and his elder son Herennius Etruscus in battle against the Goths. Four months later the co-emperor Hostilian, the younger son of Decius, perished by the plague and Volusian became his father's full partner in the government with the rank of Augustus. Their short joint reign was a period of unmitigated disaster for the Empire: the Persians attacked Syria, the Goths raided Thrace, and the population was decimated by plague. The general Aemilian, governor of Moesia, succeeded in inflicting a significant defeat on the Goths whereupon he was immediately proclaimed emperor by his soldiers. Gallus and Volusian had few troops at their disposal in Italy and were unable to oppose their rival's advance on Rome. Civil conflict was averted when they were murdered by their own men after a reign of about two years. This interesting sestertertius of Volusian was minted in Rome in the middle part of the reign. The reverse honours *Juno Martialis* ('the warlike Juno') and depicts her domed temple or shrine, a type which appears only on the coinages of Trebonianus Gallus, Hostilian and Volusian and is otherwise unknown. The precise location of this structure has been disputed by scholars, though most would place it in the *Campus Martius* where there were three temples dedicated to Juno. However, Philip Hill, in "The Monuments of Ancient Rome as Coin Types" (London, 1989) pp. 17-18, prefers to place it in the *Campus Martialis*, a small area at the foot of the Caelian Hill situated close to the *Porta Caelimontana* in the Servian Wall. An interesting feature of the coinage of Volusian is the exclusive rendering of his name in the dative case 'Volusiano' at the mint of Rome and frequently at Antioch.

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