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978-0-521-07016-4 - Familia Caesaris: A Social Study of the Emperor's Freedmen and Slaves

P. R. C. Weaver

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A SOCIAL STUDY  
OF THE EMPEROR'S FREEDMEN  
AND SLAVES

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# FAMILIA CAESARIS

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AND SLAVES

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P. R. C. WEAVER

*Professor of Classics*

*University of Tasmania*

CAMBRIDGE

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MEMORIAE  
A.H.M.JONES

Cambridge University Press

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## PREFACE

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The origin of this work was a footnote in an article by Professor A. H. M. Jones on the Roman Civil Service. Since 1955 the footnote has grown into a book and beyond, largely because neither he, as I suspect, nor I certainly, envisaged that the evidence would present itself in quite such formidable quantities or pose such challenging problems of interpretation and presentation. These factors also made necessary a long series of preliminary studies, which in turn have contributed to the long delay in putting this book into definitive form. The nature of the material and of the writing is intractable, and it has become increasingly clear to me that time and effort will not bring much improvement. Hence I have thought it better to present the subject all together as it appears to me now rather than to pursue an unattainable perfection at the cost of an indefinite delay.

This is also an appropriate moment for stocktaking. Until quite recently the *Familia Caesaris* was an almost totally neglected field, despite its obvious importance for early Imperial social and administrative history, as well as for onomastics. But in the last few years two major studies in particular have appeared by G. Boulvert and H. Chantraine. I have taken this opportunity to point out the areas where progress and agreement can be recorded and where the main problems still lie.

I have deferred to advice consistently offered by those best qualified to judge and have given the concordances to *CIL* with Dessau's *ILS* and the other main epigraphical collections. In many instances, however, the current epigraphical conventions produce unnecessary complications, e.g. III 431 = 7116 = 13674 = D 1449 or VI 8655 a = XIV 4120.3 = XV 7142 = D 1702 or even X 6638 = 1<sup>2</sup> pp. 247 f. No. xvii = *I. It.* XIII I, pp. 320 f. No. 31; not to mention the Greek inscriptions from the eastern provinces. I remain to be fully convinced that this practice is justified in terms of practical value when measured against the potential source of error it introduces, the increased costs of publication and the considerable expenditure of time and mental energy that it entails in a work of this sort. A standard, readily accessible, complete set of epigraphical concordances to which reference could easily be made, e.g. for *ILS*, by a simple symbol added to the basic *CIL* reference, would seem to be a modest desideratum.

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My grateful acknowledgements are due to King's College, Cambridge, for the award of the Augustus Austen Leigh Studentship which enabled me to begin, and for much subsequent hospitality; to the University of Western Australia for an extended period of leave in 1962–4 which enabled me to continue; to the Australian Research Grants Committee and to the University of Tasmania for generous research grants and a period of study-leave in 1970 which enabled me at last to finish. To the Council of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies and to the editors of *Classical Quarterly*, *Historia*, and *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society* I am indebted for permission to incorporate in Parts I and III of this book revised versions of articles which originally appeared in their journals. My thanks are also due to many friends and colleagues, especially in the Universities of Cambridge, Western Australia and Tasmania, for much helpful discussion. In particular I should mention Dr A. H. McDonald and the late Sir Frank Adcock for help in the choice of a topic, Miss J. M. Reynolds and J. A. Crook for expert advice unfailingly given, and Professor Moses Finley, who took an unusually keen and stimulating interest in *Familia Caesaris* from the beginning, for making my several returns to Cambridge so pleasant and profitable. My greatest debt, however, is due to the late Professor A. H. M. Jones for his guidance, criticism, deep scholarship and warm friendship. His sudden death has meant the loss of one of the greatest of ancient historians. It is as a personal token of piety and appreciation that I dedicate this volume to his memory.

P.R.C.W.

*University of Tasmania*  
*Hobart, Tasmania*  
*December 1971*



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 ABBREVIATIONS
 

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For periodicals, the system of abbreviations used in *L'Année Philologique* is generally followed, with some slight modifications (e.g. *Class. Phil.* for *CPh*) for reasons of clarity. Where short titles are used in footnotes, the Bibliography should be consulted for full details. For inscriptions, Roman capital numerals (I, II, III, IV, V, VI, etc.) refer to volumes of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*.

<i>AE</i>	<i>Année épigraphique.</i>
<i>BGU</i>	<i>Aegyptische Urkunden aus den staatlichen Museen zu Berlin. Griechische Urkunden.</i> 1895–1937.
Bömer	F. Bömer, <i>Untersuchungen über die Religion der Sklaven in Griechenland und Rom</i> , Vol. 1. Mainz, 1957.
Boulvert, <i>EAI</i>	G. Boulvert, <i>Esclaves et Affranchis Impériaux sous le Haut-Empire romain</i> . Naples, 1970.
Boulvert, II	Volume II of the original polycopied edition (not included in <i>EAI</i> above). Aix-en-Provence, 1965.
Bruzza	L. Bruzza, 'Iscrizioni dei Marmi Grezzi', <i>Ann. dell'Istituto di Corrisp. Archeol.</i> 42 (1870), 160–204.
<i>Bull. Com.</i>	<i>Bullettino della commissione archeologica comunale di Roma.</i>
<i>CAH</i>	<i>Cambridge Ancient History.</i>
Chantraine	H. Chantraine, <i>Freigelassene und Sklaven im Dienst der römischen Kaiser: Studien zu ihrer Nomenklatur</i> . Wiesbaden, 1967.
<i>Chrest.</i>	L. Mitteis and U. Wilcken, <i>Grundzüge und Chrestomathie der Papyruskunde</i> , Vol. 1. 2. Leipzig, 1912; repr. 1963.
<i>CIG</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum.</i> 1825–77.
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum.</i> 1863–.
D	H. Dessau, <i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae.</i> 1892–1916.
<i>Diz. Epig.</i>	E. de Ruggiero, <i>Dizionario epigrafico di Antichità romane.</i> 1895–.
D–S	C. Daremberg and E. Saglio, <i>Dictionnaire des antiquités grecques et romaines.</i> 1877–1912.
<i>EE</i>	<i>Ephemeris epigraphica.</i> 1872–1913.
<i>Epigr.</i>	<i>Epigraphica.</i> Rivista italiana di epigrafia. Milan.
<i>FIRA</i>	<i>Fontes Iuris Romani Anteiustiniani</i> , ed. S. Riccobono, etc. 1941–3.
Gordon, <i>Alb.</i>	A. E. and J. S. Gordon, <i>Album of Dated Latin Inscriptions, Rome and the Neighborhood.</i> 1958–65.
Hirschfeld, <i>Verwalt.</i>	O. Hirschfeld, <i>Die kaiserlichen Verwaltungsbeamten bis auf Diocletian</i> (2nd ed.). Berlin, 1905.
Hoffiller–Saria	V. Hoffiller and B. Saria, <i>Antike Inschriften aus Jugoslawien.</i> 1938.

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- IG* *Inscriptiones Graecae*. 1873–.
- IGR* *Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes*, ed. R. Cagnat, etc. 1911–27.
- I. It.* *Inscriptiones Italiae*. 1936–.
- ILAlg.* *Inscriptions latines de l'Algérie*, ed. S. Gsell and H.-G. Pflaum. 1922 and 1957.
- ILGall.* *Inscriptions latines de la Gaule Narbonnaise*, ed. E. Espérandieu. 1929.
- ILS* *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*, ed. H. Dessau. 1892–1916.
- ILTun.* *Inscriptions latines de la Tunisie*, ed. A. Merlin. 1944.
- IPO* *Inscriptions du Port d'Ostie*, ed. H. Thylander. 1951–2.
- IRT* *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania*, ed. J. M. Reynolds and J. B. Ward Perkins. 1952.
- IRT Suppl.* 'Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania: a Supplement', J. Reynolds, *PBSR* 23 (1955), 124–47.
- Jones, *LRE* A. H. M. Jones, *The Later Roman Empire 284–602*. Oxford, 1964.
- Jones, *Studies* A. H. M. Jones, *Studies in Roman Government and Law*. Oxford, 1960.
- LBW* P. Le Bas and W. H. Waddington, *Voyage archéologique en Grèce et en Asie Mineure*, III: *Inscriptions grecques et latines*. Paris, 1870.
- MAMA* *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua*. 1928–62.
- NS* *Notizie degli Scavi di Antichità*.
- OCD* *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.
- OGI* *Oriens Graeci inscriptiones selectae*, ed. W. Dittenberger. 1903–5.
- Pflaum, *CP* H.-G. Pflaum, *Les Carrières procuratoriennes équestres sous le Haut-Empire romain*. Paris, 1960–1.
- Pflaum, *Proc. Equest.* H.-G. Pflaum, *Les Procurateurs équestres sous le Haut-Empire romain*. Paris, 1950.
- PIR<sup>1</sup>* *Prosopographia Imperii Romani saec. I, II, III*, ed. E. Klebs, H. Dessau, P. von Rohden. 1896–8.
- PIR<sup>2</sup>* *Prosopographia Imperii Romani saec. I, II, III*, ed. E. Groag, A. Stein. 1933–.
- P–W* Pauly–Wissowa, *Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*. 1893–.
- Ramsay, *RP* W. M. Ramsay, *The Social Basis of Roman Power in Asia Minor*. Aberdeen, 1941.
- RIB* *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, I: *Inscriptions on Stone*, ed. R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright, 1965.
- Rostovtzeff, *SEHRE<sup>2</sup>* M. Rostovtzeff, *The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire*. Oxford, 1957.
- SEG* *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*. 1923–.
- TAM* *Tituli Asiae Minoris*. 1901–.
- Taylor L. R. Taylor, 'Freedmen and Freeborn in the Epitaphs of Imperial Rome', *AJPh* 82 (1961), 113–32.
- Thylander, *Étude* H. Thylander, *Étude sur l'Épigraphie latine*. Lund, 1952.
- TLL* *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*. 1900–.
- Vermas. M. J. Vermaseren, *Corpus Inscriptionum et Monumentorum religionis Mithriacae*. The Hague, 1956–60.