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Tiberius to Nero  
Second Edition

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# Tiberius to Nero

Second Edition

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Edited by

**M. G. L. COOLEY**

*Warwick School*

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### Bibliography and Abbreviations

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>AE</i>              | <i>L'Année épigraphique</i>  |
| Barrett                | A.A. Barrett, <i>Caligula: the Corruption of Power</i> (London 1989)   |
| <i>BGU</i>             | <i>Aegyptische Urkunden aus den Königlichen/ Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin, Griechische Urkunden</i>  |
| Birley                 | A.R. Birley, <i>The Roman Government of Britain</i> (Oxford 2005)  |
| BMC                    | H. Mattingly, <i>Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum</i> , volume I: <i>Augustus to Vitellius</i> , (London 1923)  |
| Brill-Pauly            | Brill's New Pauly: <i>Encyclopedia of the Ancient World</i> (Leiden, 2002–2009)  |
| <i>CIL</i>             | T. Mommsen et al. edd., <i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i> (Berlin 1866– )  |
| Claridge, <i>Rome</i>  | A. Claridge, <i>Rome, an Oxford Archaeological Guide</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. (Oxford 2010)   |
| Cooley, <i>RG</i>      | A.E. Cooley, <i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i> (Cambridge 2009)   |
| EJ                     | V. Ehrenberg & A.H.M. Jones, <i>Documents Illustrating the Reigns of Augustus and Tiberius</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> edn 1976)  |
| <i>Fasti Ostienses</i> | Bargagli and Grosso, <i>I Fasti Ostienses</i> (Rome 1997)  |
| Gow & Page             | A.S.F. Gow and D.L. Page, <i>The Greek Anthology, the Garland of Philip</i> (1968)   |
| Griffin                | M.T. Griffin, <i>Nero: the End of a Dynasty</i> (1984)   |
| <i>Iaph2007</i>        | J. Reynolds, C. Roueché, G. Bodard, <i>Inscriptions of Aphrodisias</i> (2007), available <a href="http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007">http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007</a>   |
| <i>IGRRP</i>           | <i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes</i>  |
| <i>ILN</i>             | <i>Inscriptions Latines de Narbonnaise</i>   |
| <i>ILS</i>             | <i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i> (ed. Dessau) [online e-book at Internet Archive: <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/inscriptionesla01dessgoog">http://www.archive.org/details/inscriptionesla01dessgoog</a> ]                   |
| <i>InscrIt XIII/2</i>  | <i>Inscriptiones Italiae XIII – Fasti et Elogia</i> , fasc. 2, <i>Fasti Anni Numani et Iuliani</i> , ed A. Degrassi (1963)   |
| <i>IRT2009</i>         | <i>Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania</i> , by J. M. Reynolds and J. B. Ward-Perkins, enhanced electronic reissue by Gabriel Bodard and Charlotte Roueché (2009) <a href="http://irt.kcl.ac.uk/irt2009/">http://irt.kcl.ac.uk/irt2009/</a> |
| LACTOR 15              | J. Edmondson, <i>Dio: the Julio-Claudians</i> (1992)   |
| LACTOR 17              | M.G.L. Cooley & B.W.J.G. Wilson, <i>The Age of Augustus</i> (2003)   |
| Levick, <i>Tib</i>     | B.M. Levick, <i>Tiberius the Politician</i> (1976)   |
| Levick, <i>Claud</i>   | B.M. Levick, <i>Claudius</i> (1990)  |
| <i>MAMA</i>            | <i>Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua</i>   |
| Millar, ERW            | F.G.B. Millar, <i>The Emperor in the Roman World, 31 BC – AD 337</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition London 1992)   |

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|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>NSc</i>              | <i>Notizie degli scavi di antichità</i>  |
| <i>OCD</i>              | S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth, ed., <i>The Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, Oxford 1996)                                       |
| <i>OGIS</i>             | <i>Orientalis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</i> , ed. W. Dittenberger (1905)   |
| Page                    | D.L. Page, <i>Further Greek Epigrams</i> (1981)  |
| <i>PIR</i>              | <i>Prosopographia Imperii Romani</i> (ed. E. Klebs <i>et al.</i> Berlin 1897–8; 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 1933 and ongoing)                                |
| <i>P.Oxy</i>            | <i>Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i>  |
| <i>RIC</i>              | C.H.V. Sutherland, <i>The Roman Imperial Coinage</i> , volume I revised ed. (London 1984)  |
| <i>RPC</i>              | A. Burnett, M. Amandry and P.P. Ripollès, <i>Roman Provincial Coinage I: From the Death of Caesar to the Death of Vitellius</i> (London and Paris, 1992) |
| <i>SEG</i>              | <i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>   |
| Sherk                   | R.K. Sherck, <i>The Roman Empire: Augustus to Hadrian</i> (1988)   |
| <i>SIG</i>              | <i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i>   |
| Smallwood               | E.M. Smallwood, <i>Documents Illustrating the Principates of Gaius, Claudius &amp; Nero</i> (1984)   |
| Syme, <i>AA</i>         | R. Syme, <i>The Augustan Aristocracy</i> (Oxford 1986)   |
| Syme, <i>RP</i>         | R. Syme, <i>Roman Papers</i> , ed. A.R. Birley (Oxford)  |
| Syme, <i>Tacitus</i>    | R. Syme, <i>Tacitus</i> (Oxford 1958)  |
| Wiseman, <i>New Men</i> | T. P. Wiseman, <i>New Men in the Roman Senate, 139 BC–AD 14</i> (Oxford 1971)  |

## Preface

This volume aims to provide source material for students of the Roman Empire under Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. It does not include material from Tacitus' *Annals* or Suetonius' *Lives of the Caesars*, since these are readily available in a variety of formats. Nor does it include material from Dio's *Roman History*, since this is easily accessible as LACTOR 15. Instead it concentrates on a much greater range of material, in most cases more contemporary than Tacitus, Suetonius and Dio. I hope that the volume will be of use to students and teachers of the A2 level Roman History option in the UK, and some knowledge of Augustus is assumed (as on this module), but I hope it will also be of use to students at English-speaking universities.

The material has been structured in a similar way to LACTOR 17, *The Age of Augustus*. Part I consists of long texts of various genres mostly written by contemporaries. Part II is arranged by themes most relevant to the fairly traditional approach of a political history concentrating on the emperors (as currently required by A level). This sourcebook is not intended as a textbook for social history.

This book will certainly contain inconsistencies, sometimes due to the ancient evidence, sometimes due to the number of contributors to the book and the oversight of the editor. For these and for other mistakes of fact, interpretation, or proof-reading, I most sincerely beg the reader's pardon.

It is a great pleasure to thank the many people who have spent a great deal of their free time on this book and shared freely their expertise. Most of the literary texts were translated by Brian Wilson, with the exception of Seneca's *Apocolocyntosis* and Philo's *Embassy to Gaius*, by Emma Othen. I am very grateful for the notes provided by various experts on some of the ancient authors: Barbara Levick on Velleius, Miriam Griffin on Seneca the Younger, Andrew Harker on Josephus, and Peter Wiseman on *Octavia*. Sam Moorhead provided a great deal of help on the coins, and I am grateful to the British Museum for the photographs of the coins from their superb collection, many of which were taken specially for this book by Victoria Wolfe (George Washington University), and also to Bert Smith and the New York University Excavations at Aphrodisias for allowing their photographs of the Sebasteion to be reproduced here. Some material here has been reworked from the JACT 'Teachers' Notes' produced by Zahra Newby, Penny Goodman, and myself. Thanks are also due to Andrew Harvey for his work in setting and printing a long and difficult script.

Far my greatest debt, however, is due to my wife Alison, for her continued support throughout this project, in translating and commenting on the large number of inscriptions, and in all other ways. This book is dedicated with love to her and to our children, Emma and Paul.

August 2011

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### Notes on Literary Sources

Minor authors are given brief introductions where passages from their works are given.

**Calpurnius Siculus:** nothing is known about him, except for the 7 pastoral poems ascribed to him. The literary style is similar to other hexameter verses produced around the time of Nero, and the references to a comet, a young emperor who gave games and is thought of as a literary patron fit Nero and almost no other possible emperor. His name suggests a possible link to the Calpurnius Piso family.

**Dio** (probably L. Claudius Cassius Dio Cocceianus) was born *c.* AD 163/5 into one of the most prominent Greek families in Bithynia (NW Turkey). He had a distinguished career, over about 40 years, as Roman senator and governor, retiring after his second consulship in ad 229. Dio's *Roman History* is written in Greek and covered the entire period from Rome's foundation to his own day. However significant parts of his original accounts of the Julio-Claudian emperors are lost, though these survive in the form of summaries made by Xiphilinus (ad 1070s) and Zonaras (AD 1118). Where Tacitus' *Annals* are lost, Dio can provide the only surviving chronological account. For a selection of the most valuable parts of Dio's history, see Jonathan Edmondson, LACTOR 15.

**Frontinus.** Sextus Julius Frontinus lived from about AD 30 to AD 104, and was given important positions by the emperors Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva and Trajan, including three consulships. His *Strategems*, written after AD 84, give examples of military tactics from Greek and Roman history. In AD 97, Nerva appointed him Aqueducts Commissioner, and while in this post, he wrote a book about the history, administration and maintenance of the aqueducts he was responsible for (*de aquis urbis Romae* – The Aqueducts of Rome). This book includes a wealth of technical information, facts and figures about the system in his day as well as exact quotations of earlier statutes.

**Aulus Gellius**, born between AD 125 and 128 seems to have published his 'Attic Nights' around AD 180. He explains the title as emanating from his decision to write up notes he made from his reading on a great variety of subjects, during the long winter nights in Attica, but says he only completed the project 30 years later as an instructive entertainment for his children. His value lies in his repeating material which he read, but which is not now preserved elsewhere.

**Josephus** (Flavius Iosephus), AD 37/8 – *c.* 100. Jewish historian, see **E1** for his own description of himself and his writings and Introduction to Section E.

**Juvenal** (Decimus Iunius Iuvenalis), Roman satirist, active *c.* AD 120. His 16 poems satirise and exaggerate aspects of contemporary Roman life. Juvenal often uses historical examples to back up his point. These are often explained in ancient commentaries which sometimes completely misidentify figures, and occasionally provide important historical information.

**Lucan** (M. Annaeus Lucanus), AD 39-65, poet, grandson of Seneca the Elder, nephew of Seneca the Younger. For his life, see **P11b** and **R36**, for his epic poem on the Civil Wars, see **T16**.

**Martial** (Marcus Valerius Martialis), AD 38/41 to 101/4, was born and died at Bilbilis in Spain. He moved to Rome *c.* AD 64, as a protégé of Seneca the Younger. He

published 15 books of epigrams on a huge variety of themes, beginning in AD 80 with a *Book on the Shows* for the inauguration of the Flavian Amphitheatre.

**Philo**, an old man at the time of his embassy to Gaius, was a leading Hellenised Jew of Alexandria, who wrote extensively in Greek on Jewish themes. See Introduction to Section D.

**Pliny the Elder** (Gaius Plinius Secundus) AD 23/4 to 79. Prominent equestrian, commander of the fleet at Misenum at the eruption of Vesuvius. See **R14–R15**.

**Pliny the Younger** (Gaius Plinius Secundus), c. AD 61 to c. 112). Nephew and heir of Pliny the Elder. Originally from Comum in N. Italy, he works his way up to the suffect consulship in AD 100: his career is also known from an inscription (*ILS* 2927). He published 9 books of letters to friends on a variety of literary, social, political and historical matters. Pliny refers to selecting and arranging ‘letters which were written with some degree of care’ (*Letters* 1.1), so the letters are intended to portray him in a good light to other members of the upper classes. A tenth book contains letters to Trajan and his replies on questions concerning his governorship of Bithynia-Pontus where he died in office.

**Plutarch**, c. AD 45–120 is best known for his biographies of Greek and Roman leaders, *Parallel Lives* linking the lives of Greeks and Romans, and often drawing moral conclusions. His *Moralia* includes moral and philosophical essays, literary criticism. It also includes a section on famous sayings of kings and emperors.

**Quintilian** (Marcus Fabius Quintilianus) born c. AD 35 in Spain became the best known teacher of rhetoric in Rome. *The Orator’s Education* (*Institutio Oratoria*) gives lengthy and detailed advice on writing speeches, including many famous remarks of historical figures and judgements on Roman authors.

**Seneca the Elder** (Lucius Annaeus Seneca) c. 50 BC – c. AD 40) was born in Corduba in Spain, a landowner and gentleman of leisure who first visited Rome in the 30s BC to study rhetoric and then to supervise the education of his three sons. He was ambitious for them, and two became consuls. In old age the Elder Seneca dedicated to his sons a work on declamation, using his astounding memory for recalling what he had heard in the schools of rhetoric (perhaps supplemented by written sources). Of this work, five books of *controversiae* and one of *suasoriae* survive, containing excerpts from the best performances he had heard. His history from the start of the civil wars almost to his death is lost.

**Seneca the Younger** (Lucius Annaeus Seneca, shortly before 1 BC – AD 65), orator, dramatist and Stoic philosopher, was born in Corduba, S. Spain. His family was of Italian origin and equestrian status, which meant substantial wealth and high social standing. A hugely important literary and political figure in this period.

Seneca began his political career late in the reign of Tiberius, an emperor Seneca was to depict unflatteringly, remarking on his meanness throughout his reign and on his paranoia in his last years (e.g. *Ben.* 2.7.–8; 3.26.1; 5.25.2). Under Caligula, Seneca and his brother, Novatus, achieved the next senatorial office, despite Caligula’s envy of Seneca’s success as an orator (Dio 59.19 and Suet. *Gaius* 53). In 41 his friendship with Caligula’s sisters led to his being tried before the senate, on a charge of adultery with Julia Livilla, and relegated to the island of Corsica. There he remained, writing consolations to his mother Helvia and to Claudius’ freedman Polybius until 49 when, through the influence of Claudius’ new wife Agrippina, he was recalled to Rome and given a praetorship. Agrippina thought his recall would counter the unpopularity of her marriage, as Seneca was

already a well-known author: by then his long treatise *On Anger* was planned and probably partly written. She also wanted him to tutor her son Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus in rhetoric, not in philosophy. Novatus, bearing the adoptive name L. Junius Gallio Annaeanus by 52, benefited too: he became proconsul of Achaia (Greece). It may be now too that the third brother Mela became a procurator of imperial estates (Tac. *Ann.* 16.17).

When Nero became *princeps* in October 54, Seneca was not merely his teacher, but one of the principal *amici principis*, the imperial speech-writer and key publicity agent. Working closely and harmoniously with the praetorian prefect, Sextus Afranius Burrus, also a provincial (from Gaul) and also a protégé of Agrippina, Seneca managed to control and guide the adolescent *princeps*, ‘using now the reins and now the spur’ (*On Anger* 2.21.3, cf. Tac. *Ann.* 13.2.1), as reflected in the mixture of flattery and admonition in *On Clemency*, dedicated to Nero in late 55 or 56 (Section G). Seneca and Burrus managed to retain their authority with by providing a less austere alternative to Agrippina’s censorious nagging, but after Nero disposed of his mother in 59 and Burrus died in 62, Seneca saw that his influence was over. In that year Nero divorced Claudius’ daughter Octavia, who had failed to produce a child, and married the beautiful Poppaea Sabina (J27), who was pregnant with his daughter. Faenius Rufus and Ofonius Tigellinus succeeded Burrus as praetorian prefect. Seneca asked to retire from court to concentrate on his philosophical writing (Tac. *Ann.* 14.53-4), though by that time he had probably already written most of the tragedies and the philosophical works that survive, except possibly for the later books of the *Natural Questions* and the *Letters to Lucilius* (*De Providentia*, also addressed to Lucilius is undateable). Nero refused his request, and Seneca remained, to outward appearances, a favoured *amicus*. After the great fire of July 64, Seneca was again refused permission to retire and withdrew to his room, handing over most of his wealth to the Emperor (Tac. *Ann.* 15.45). In April of 65 he was ordered to commit suicide, officially for participation in the Pisonian conspiracy, though Tacitus was probably right to believe that he was innocent but possibly cognisant of the plot (*Ann.* 15.60, 61). Sadly, the last words he recorded are only mentioned, not preserved, by Tacitus (*Ann.* 15.63), though the act of dictation was immortalised by Reubens in his painting of Seneca’s death.

**Stattius** (Publius Papinius Statius), Roman poet, born around ad 50 in Naples. He wrote an epic poem, *Thebaid* on the struggle for Thebes between Oedipus’ sons and a collection of poems, *Silvae*, published in the 90s, which celebrate various occasions in the lives of a circle of upper-class friends.

**Strabo** was born in Amasia in Pontus, probably around 64 BC, into a family that enjoyed close involvement with the local ruling dynasty. His great literary achievement was a 47-book historical work, which is almost entirely lost. However, we do have his 17-book *Geography*, which was compiled during the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius, and provides an account of the entire world known to the Romans. Strabo’s material came largely from older literary sources, but his mixture of Greek education, Pontic background, and Roman connections, provides us with one of the most important and extensive contemporary sources on the Roman world at the accession of Tiberius.

**Suetonius** (Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus), born c. AD 69, died after AD 130, author of *Lives of the Caesars*. He was an equestrian who worked as imperial secretary for

Trajan and Hadrian in the AD 110s, involving him in administrative tasks such as helping to handle the emperor's correspondence. Thus Suetonius had direct access to the imperial archives, including documents such as personal letters from the time of Julius Caesar and Augustus. He drew on this material as he began working on his *Lives of the Caesars*, sometimes quoting it directly in his biographies. However after being dismissed from the imperial staff in AD 122, he lost his privileged access to the archives, so that from *Nero* onwards it is clear that he was restricted to using publicly-available source material such as senatorial decrees, narrative histories already written by earlier authors and oral reports.

Suetonius is writing biography, not history. So while the structure of the *Lives* is very broadly chronological, the bulk of each biography is usually thematic. Suetonius also places greater emphasis on the private lives and personalities of the emperors – often from a very ‘gossipy’ perspective.

**Tacitus** (Publius Cornelius Tacitus) was born *c.* AD 56 probably in Gaul. He came to Rome by AD 75 and had a senatorial career under the Flavian emperors. He was praetor in 88, consul in 97 and proconsul of Asia in 112–13. While his most prestigious posts were held under Nerva and Trajan, his career started and was developed under the Flavians (as he admits in *Histories* 1.1). Tacitus began his literary career around AD 98, with various minor works, including a biography of his father-in-law, Agricola. His *Histories* covered the period AD 69–96: only the first five books survive, covering the wars of succession which followed Nero's death. He then went back to cover the period AD 14–68 in *Annals* written in 18 books. Of these, books 1–6 (covering AD 14–37, but with most of book 5 lost) and books 11–16 (covering AD 47–66) survive.

Like Suetonius and Pliny the Younger, Tacitus sees the reigns of earlier emperors through the lens of his experiences under Domitian. Thus themes such as the origins of treason trials under Tiberius or the autocracy of Gaius and Nero are given prominence. A major theme in Tacitus' writings is the loss of liberty. For his attitude to the writing of history, see **R3**.

**Valerius Maximus** compiled his book of ‘Memorable deeds and sayings from the City of Rome and foreign nations’ in the reign of Tiberius (AD 14–37). He makes no claim to originality merely to make a convenient selection from famous authors.

**Velleius Paterculus**: historian, 20/19 BC to after AD 30. See introduction to C.

### Editorial Conventions for Texts of Inscriptions

- [ ] square brackets enclose words or letters which are missing in the original text and have been restored by the editor or translator.
- [ ... ] dots in square brackets indicate words or letters missing in the original text.
- ( ) round brackets are used to expand words abbreviated in the original text.
- ... dots outside brackets mark where the translator has omitted part of the text.
- [5] numbers in square brackets indicate line numbers of an inscription
- ~~Nero~~ text struck through indicates a deliberate deletion or erasure of a text in antiquity.

### The Coinage Reform of AD 64

Pliny tells us in his *Natural History* (33.47 = T21) that Nero reduced the weight of the gold *aureus* (Pliny calls it the gold *denarius*) from 40 to 45 to the pound. It is likely that he knew this from dealing with the coins themselves, rather than from having any direct access to information about theoretical weights. The gold *aureus* did indeed fall in weight in AD 64. It had been 7.85 grams under Augustus and ranged between 7.7 and 7.6g in Nero's reign until AD 64. It then fell to between 7.4 and 7.2g after 64. However, the fineness of the coins remained at about 99% gold. Pliny does not mention the silver *denarius* but it was also reduced in weight from 96 to 84 to the pound, c. 3.89 to 3.41g. Furthermore, the fineness of the coins was reduced from around 98-96% to around 94% silver. There was a simple way for the populace to distinguish pre- and post-reform coins: the pre-reform coins had a bare-headed portrait of Nero; the post-reform coins showed him wearing a laurel wreath.

We cannot be certain about the reason for such changes in the coinages, but if the state paid its debts at the same price levels after the reform, it would obviously benefit from such debasement. However, in the long-term, over the next couple of centuries, continued debasement led to high inflation, culminating in the third century ad. It is also argued that changes were required in the weight of coins to maintain a ratio of 25 silver *denarii* to one gold *aureus*.

Nero began to strike large numbers of base metal coins from AD 62 at Rome – brass *sestertii*, brass *dupondii*, copper *asses*, brass *semisses* and copper *quadrantes*. However, from AD 64 the output increased enormously, partly due to the opening of the mint at Lugdunum (Lyons). There is no doubt that an increasing proportion of the coinage was now made of base metal and one can assume that the state paid more of its debts in these low value coins.

| Roman Coin        | HS equivalent | material | diameter | weight* | notes                      |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------|----------------------------|
| <i>aureus</i>     | 100 HS        | gold     | 18mm     | 8g      | Augustan                   |
| <i>denarius</i>   | 4 HS          | silver   | 18mm     | 4g      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> century bc |
| <i>sestertius</i> | 1 HS          | brass    | 35mm     | 28g     | Augustan                   |
| <i>dupondius</i>  | ½ HS          | brass    | 28mm     | 14g     |                            |
| <i>as</i>         | ¼ HS          | copper   | 28mm     | 10g     | traditional unit           |
| <i>semis</i>      | 1/8 HS        | brass    | 17mm     | 3g      |                            |
| <i>quadrans</i>   | 1/16 HS       | copper   | 17mm     | 3g      |                            |

\* notional weights up to AD 64, though in practice coins staying in circulation become slightly worn and less heavy.

In the East, Greek (Attic) coinage was commonly used, based on the drachma, a silver coin, weighing, at 4.36g, slightly more than a *denarius* but notionally equivalent to it. The Alexandrian drachma used in Egypt was notionally equivalent to 1 HS.



**A guide to monetary values****Sesterces**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| The budget surplus on Gaius' accession was around   | 2,700,000,000 |
| Gaius' wife, Lollia Paulina apparently wore jewellery worth                                 | 40,000,000    |
| The property qualification for a Roman senator, established by Augustus was                 | 1,000,000     |
| The property qualification for a Roman equestrian, established by Augustus was              | 400,000       |
| The annual pay of a Roman legionary was   | 900           |
| Discharge payment for Roman legionary veterans was  | 12,000        |
| The town council at Pompeii occasionally allocated, for funerals of local dignitaries       | 2,000         |
| The annual corn dole of 60 <i>modii</i> (measures) was worth around                         | 300-360       |
| Gaius gave two cash gifts to Roman citizens in June and August of ad 37 ( <b>J19e</b> ), of | 75            |
| A tunic (of unknown quality) at Pompeii cost  | 15            |
| A cup of Falernian (high quality) wine at a bar in Pompeii cost                             | 4             |
| A cup of cheap wine from the same bar cost  | 1             |

## Glossary

- aedile:** the most junior magistrate with full senatorial status.
- as (pl. asses):** the base-unit of Roman currency, a small value coin.
- augur:** a priest, especially responsible for predictions based on flights of birds.
- Augustalis:** a priest involved in emperor-worship.
- Augustus:** as well as the name adopted by Octavian, it comes to be part of the name or title of Gaius, Claudius and Nero and thus can effectively mean ‘emperor’. ‘**Augusta**’ becomes applied to Livia and various other imperial women. ‘**Augusti**’ can refer to the imperial family.
- aureus:** the highest value coin, made of gold, worth 100 sesterces.
- ensor:** traditionally one of two senior senators, elected for eighteen months every five years, responsible for revising the roll of the senate, according to financial and moral standards.
- civic crown:** (*corona civica*) traditionally an honour awarded for saving the life of a citizen in battle, but usurped by Augustus for ending civil wars, and reduced to little more than an element of imperial decoration.
- client:** a citizen who voluntarily paid his respects to a richer, more powerful patron, in return for his protection.
- cognomen:** the last of a Roman’s names, sometimes a type of ‘nickname’, but often distinguishing not just an individual, but a branch of a large family.
- colony:** a settlement of Roman citizens (often army veterans) with its own local constitution.
- consul:** the highest political office in the republic. Two consuls were elected each year to serve for one year.
- cursus honorum:** the ‘career path’ of a member of the senatorial classes.
- denarius:** small silver coin worth 4 sesterces.
- dictator:** magistrate appointed in time of emergency in the Roman republic.
- Divus/Diva:** ‘God(dess)’, especially of those officially deified.
- equestrian:** (1) a member of this class in Rome, almost equal in status to the senatorial class. (2) equestrian statue: statue of a man on horseback (compare *pedestrian*)
- fasces:** symbols of the authority of a magistrate carried by his attendants
- fasti:** publicly inscribed lists of various sorts: dates, consuls, etc.
- freedman:** a slave, formally set free by his master, automatically becoming a Roman citizen (and the client of his former master).
- genius:** the spirit of a person (or place).
- imperator:** originally a title given by Roman troops to their general after a major victory, such as would merit a triumph, adopted by Augustus as part of his name and used as part of the emperor’s official title, though also to mark military victories.
- imperium:** the power invested in a magistrate (e.g. consul, praetor or governor).
- imperium maius:** (greater power), i.e. power outranking that of a consul or governor, granted to certain members of imperial family, e.g. Germanicus in the East.
- laurel crown:** originally worn by a general in his triumph, but adopted as a symbol of the emperor.

**legate:** 1) anyone to whom authority is delegated, *e.g.* a military officer. 2) **legatus Augusti propraetore** (legate of Augustus with the power of a praetor) – the official term for someone appointed to govern a (major) imperial province.

**libation:** liquid (usually wine) poured as an offering to gods or spirits of the dead  
**ludi saeculares:** (Centennial Games) games held once every 100 or 110 years, to celebrate a new age.

**macellum:** meat and fish market-building.

**magistrate:** an official elected for a year both at Rome and in local government.

**manumission:** the formal freeing of a slave, resulting in his attaining citizenship.

**military tribune:** one of 6 officers in a Roman legion subordinate to the legionary commander. Usually one was of senatorial class, the other five equestrians, the post was effectively a step on the *cursus honorum*. Occasionally centurions were promoted to this post.

**municipium:** a city within the Roman empire whose citizens were also Roman citizens and which was allowed to govern itself on a Roman model.

**novus homo:** (new man) – term applied to the first member of a family to become a senator, or the first to become consul, or occasionally to do both (as abnormally, Sejanus).

**pater patriae:** Father of the Fatherland. Title granted to Augustus in 2 bc and adopted by Gaius, Claudius and Nero. Though honorific it suggested absolute authority over the empire similar to that of a father over his family.

**patron:** a more wealthy and important citizen who looked after the interests of poorer clients in return for their support and public deference.

**pedestrian:** pedestrian statue: statue of a man standing up (compare *equestrian*)

**plebs:** the proper term for the ordinary citizen body of Rome.

**pontifex maximus:** chief priest, a post taken on accession by all emperors after Augustus.

**portico:** a colonnade around a central (open-air) area.

**praetor:** annually ‘elected’ magistrate ranking between consul and quaestor. Ex-praetors governed the less important public provinces.

**Praetorian guard:** elite bodyguard of the emperor. The only troop stationed in Italy.

**Praetorian prefect:** commander of the guard, an increasingly powerful position.

**prefect:** someone ‘put in charge of’ something: often an appointee of the *princeps*.

**princeps:** the word, meaning ‘leader’ or ‘chief’ was the one chosen by Augustus to designate his position.

**princeps iuventutis:** (leader of the younger generation) – title invented by Augustus for his grandsons to show that they would become *princeps*.

**proconsul:** a former consul, retaining his former official power, usually as governor of a major public province.

**procurator:** someone taking care of something for the *princeps*, from an estate to a minor imperial province.

**propraetor:** someone granted the power of a praetor, usually as governor of a minor public province.

**quaestor:** a junior magistrate and member of the senate, sometimes employed effectively as the *princeps*’ secretary (*e.g.* P3q).

**quindecimvir:** a member of a college of fifteen priests in charge of sacrifices, chosen by the *princeps* as a permanent honour.

- republican:** modern usage to refer to the period when Rome was governed by elected magistrates (rather than emperors), roughly 510–50 BC.
- Salii*:** an archaic college of priests who sang a hymn on public occasions.
- septemvir*:** a member of a college of seven priests responsible for feasts put on in honour of Jupiter at Games. A signal honour, chosen by the *princeps*.
- sesterces*:** the unit of currency in Rome.
- suffect:** replacement magistrate, especially consul, appointed in republic after death of incumbent, but under principate, pairs of suffect consuls are usually appointed as a way of sharing the honour of a consulship more widely.
- tribe:** all citizens were formally a member of one of 35 tribes, by this period of no discernible significance.
- tribunician power:** the power of one of ten republican magistrates elected to protect the interests of the plebs. Augustus adopts the power as symbolic and useful, and also to ease the succession to Tiberius. For later emperors it mostly marks their regnal years.