

OCR Classical Civilisation component 22: IMPERIAL IMAGE

(DWR notes 24 July 2019)

Basic bibliography

- * H.H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero* (5th edn, 1982), chs.XI-XIII.1.
W. Eck, *The Age of Augustus* (tr. 2003).
ed. K. Galinsky, *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Augustus* (2005).
[ignore: Southern, *Augustus* (2nd edn 2013); Galinsky, *Augustus* (2012).]
- * J.A. Crook, 'Political history, 30 B.C. to A.D. 14', 'Augustus: power, authority, achievement', *Cambridge Ancient History X* (2nd edn, 1996) chs.2-3.
J.S. Richardson, *Augustan Rome 44 BC to AD 14. The Restoration of the Republic and the Establishment of the Empire* (2012).
- * K. Galinsky, *Augustan Culture: an Interpretive Introduction* (1996).
P. Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus* (1988).

Main ancient sources

CASSIUS DIO, Bks. 51-56 [written under Septimius Severus, early III AD]
- Penguin transl.: *Cassius Dio, The Roman History: the Reign of Augustus*.
SUETONIUS, *Divus Augustus* [written under Hadrian, 120s AD]
RES GESTAE Divi Augusti (in Lactor 17 - below)

DOCUMENTS in translation (mainly inscriptions)

** ed. M.G.L. Cooley, *The Age of Augustus* (Lactor 17; 2003, 2nd edn 2013).

Note: - Alumni who retain access to their University libraries will find that many OUP and CUP and other publications are available online through block licences.

- The Roman Society, through its Schools Committee, offers grants to help buy classroom copies to start up or expand teaching of Roman subjects.

- There is a collection of the prescribed sources available for free download by registered teacher members of The Classics Library (<https://www.theclassicslibrary.com/>).

KEY EVENTS in CREATION of the PRINCIPATE

63 BC, 23rd Sept: born - called Gaius Octavius.

44 BC, 15th March: Julius Caesar assassinated; great-nephew Octavian is main heir on condition he took Caesar's name - called Gaius Julius Caesar (Octavianus?).

42-33 BC: by *lex* of the people, triumvir 'for organising the republic' with Marcus Antonius and M. Aemilius Lepidus (for 5 years, renewed for 5 years).

31; 30 BC: battle of Actium; capture of Alexandria (suicides of Antony and Cleopatra).

31-23 BC: Octavian / Augustus consul (III-XI) with a supporter as other consul.

The three 'settlements' (Mommsen)

28/7 BC: Octavian gives up using (defunct) powers as triumvir [cf. item 1b below];
receives 10-year governorship (*imperium proconsulare*) of dangerous provinces,
also name Augustus and other honours, and vague duty to 'care' for state.

23 BC: Augustus ceases annual tenure of consulship;
receives upgrade to *maius imperium proconsulare*
and grant of indefinite annual *tribunicia potestas*.

19 BC: Grant of indefinite *imperium consulare*, and *ensoria potestas* (one year).

+ 12 BC: Election (unopposed) as *pontifex maximus* (chief priest).

2 BC: Grant of title *pater patriae*. [cf. *paterfamilias*]

Some ancient views (*res publica, libertas vs dominatio, principatus*)

1a. *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* 34.1-3

In my sixth and seventh consulships (28-27 BC), after I had extinguished civil wars and through universal support had power over everything, I handed over the state (*res publica*) from my power to the decision of the Roman senate and people . . .

1b. Aureus (gold coin) of Octavian (28 BC) [two known examples, one in the BM]
Obverse: bust of Octavian wearing wreath/diadem. IMP. CAESAR DIVI F. COS. VI
Reverse: Octavian, togate, seated on curule chair (as consul), holds up papyrus scroll (law) from box of scrolls by his feet. LEGES ET IVRA P. R. RESTITVIT

cf. 36 BC: Lepidus 'retires'. Octavian announces that the state (*politeia*) will be restored on M. Antonius' return from Parthia (Appian, *Civil War* 5.130-2).

34 & 32: Antonius promises to return all power to Senate and People (Dio 49.41.6; 50.7.1-2;
cf. Suetonius, *Augustus* 28.1 below).

2a. Cassius Dio 52.1.1 (under 29 BC)

These were the deeds and experiences of the Romans under the monarchy (*basileia*), the republic (*dēmokratia*) and the power of individuals (*dunasteiai*) over seven hundred and twenty-five years (i.e. since 754 BC foundation). After this they began once more to have rule by one man (*monarcheisthai*), to be accurate, although Caesar (i.e. Octavian) had planned to lay down arms and to transfer affairs to the senate and people.

2b. Cassius Dio 53.17.1 (under 27 BC)

In this way all the power of the people and of the senate was transferred to Augustus, and from his time rule by one man (*monarchia*), to be accurate, was established.

3. Suetonius, *Augustus* 28.1-2

He twice considered restoring the *res publica*: first immediately after crushing Antony (28 BC?) in view of Antony's not infrequent accusations that it was he who was the obstacle to its restoration, and again (23 BC) when, exhausted by a chronic illness, he summoned the magistrates and senate to his house . . . But on reflecting that private life would not be without risks, and that it would be rash to entrust the state to the control of a group of people, he continued to hold onto it, arguably with better results than intentions. He made these intentions of his known on many occasions, and even put them on record in an edict: 'So my wish is to establish the state on a safe and sound basis and to gather the fruit which I seek from this action, namely that I shall be called the author of the best form of government and that in death I shall take with me the hope that the foundations of the state which I have laid will remain in place.'

4. Velleius Paterculus 2.89.3-5 (on 28-27 BC)

Civil wars were ended after twenty years, foreign wars suppressed, peace restored, the frenzy of arms everywhere lulled to rest; validity was restored to the laws, authority to the courts, and dignity to the senate; magisterial power was reduced to its former limits . . . ; the old traditional form of the *res publica* was restored. Agriculture returned to the fields, respect to religion, stability to mankind and assured possession for each man of his individual property . . .