**Augustus and the *cursus honorum*: the Evidence for a *lex Iulia annalis***

Emily Master ([ekutzer@princeton.edu](mailto:ekutzer@princeton.edu))

CAMWS 2014, Waco, Tx.

**1. Cassius Dio, 52.20.1-2:**

Καταλέγεσθαι δὲ χρὴ ἐς μὲν τὴν ἱππάδα ὀκτωκαιδεκέτεις, ἐν γὰρ ταύτῃ τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μάλιστα ἥ τε τῶν σωμάτων αὐτῶν εὐεξία καὶ ἡ τῶν ψυχῶν ἐπιτηδειότης διαφαίνεται, ἐς δὲ τὸ συνέδριον πεντεκαιεικοσιέτεις· πῶς γὰρ οὐκ αἰσχρὸν καὶ σφαλερόν ἐστι τὰ μὲν οἰκεῖα μηδενὶ πρὸ ταύτης τῆς ἡλικίας ἐπιτρέπεσθαι, τὰ δὲ δημόσια καὶ νεωτέροις τισὶν ἐγχειρίζεσθαι; ταμιεύσαντές τε καὶ ἀγορανομήσαντες ἢ δημαρχήσαντες στρατηγείτωσαν, τριακοντοῦται γενόμενοι.

As for the matter of eligibility for office, now, we should put men on the roll of knights when they are eighteen years old, for at that age their physical soundness and their mental fitness can best be discerned; but we should not enroll them in the senate until they are twenty-five years old. For is it not disgraceful, and indeed hazardous, to entrust the public business to men younger than this, when we never commit our private affairs to any one before he has reached this age? After they have served as quaestors and aediles or tribunes, let them be praetors when they reach the age of thirty (trans. Cary).

**2. Tacitus, *Annals*, 3.29.:**

Per idem tempus Neronem e liberis Germanici iam ingressum iuventam commendavit patribus, utque munere capessendi vigintiviratus solveretur et quinquennio maturius quam **per leges** quaesturam peteret non sine inrisu audientium postulavit. praetendebat sibi atque fratri decreta eadem petente Augusto.

During the same period he recommended to the fathers one of Germanicus’ children, Nero, who had now embarked on his young manhood; and, not without derision from his listeners, he demanded that he should be released from the responsibility of undertaking the vigintivirate and should seek the quaestorship five years earlier than according to the laws. (He maintained that the same had been decreed to himself and his brother at Augustus’ request) (trans. Woodman).

**2. Known Consular Careers 42 BC – 12 BC[[1]](#footnote-1)** (adapted from Morris [1987, 1988])

42 BC L. Munatius Plancus p O leg 54 [42+]

40 C. Asinius Pollio p O b. 76/75 **34/35**

39 C. Calvisius Sabinus p O pr 46? [47]

37 M. Vipsanius Agrippa NH O b. 62 **25**

36 M. Cocceius Nerva p O qu 41 **35**

1. Paullus Aemilius Lepidus P s III mon 54 [38/48]

L. Scribonius Libo p O III mon c. 55? senator 56 [52+]

L. Sempronius Atratinus C O b. 73 **38**

1. L. Cornelius (Cinna?) P s qu 44? [42?]
2. M. Valerius Messala Corvinus P O b. 65 **33**
3. M. Tullius Cicero C s b. 64 **33**

C. Antistius Vetus p s qu 45 [45]

1. M. Iunius Silanus P O TM 43 qu 34 [39]
2. Cn. Calpurnius Piso P s proqu. 49 [56]

L. Sestius Quirinus p s qu 44 tr pl 37 [51]

1. M. Claudius Marcellus Aeserninus P O qu 48 [56]

L. Arruntius P O proscribed 43 [46+]

1. M. Lollius p O Caesarian 44 [48+]
2. M. Appuleius P O qu 44 [54]
3. P. Cornelius Lentulus Marcellinus P O pr 29 [51[42?]]
4. C. Furnius C O Caesarian before 31 [40+]
5. P. Cornelius Scipio P O qu Achaeae ? c 23/22 [31/32, possibly closer to 34 (Ellers, 2001)]

L. Domitius Ahenobarbus P O aedilis 22 [33]

L. Tarius Rufus NH s Caesarian 31 [40+]

1. L. Calpurnius Piso P O b. 48 **32**
2. Cn. Cornelius Lentulus P O qu 38/27 [?29] [38/54] [?40]
3. Ti. Claudius Nero [Tiberius] P O b. 42 **28** [5 years remission from **33**]

P. Quinctilius Varus P O b. 50/46 qu Achaeae c 22/21 [**32/35**] [?32/33]

12 P. Sulpicius Quirinius NH O Procos c 21/20 [42/3+]

1. Iullus Antonius P O pr 13 [32]
2. Nero Claudius Drusus P O b. 38 **28** (5 years remission from 33)

T. Quinctius Crispinus Sulpicianus P s III m c 21/20 [29/35]

1. C. Marcius Censorinus C O III m c 21/20 [30/36]

C. Asinius Gallus P O b. ? 41 III m 22 **32**

1. Cn. Calpurnius Piso P O III m 23 [34/39]

6 D. Laelius Balbus C O b. – 43 **37+**

C. Antistius Vetus P O III m 16 [28/33]

5 L. Vinicius C s III m 16 [29/34]

Q. Haterius p s b. c 63 **c 57**

3 L. Cornelius Lentulus P O III m. 12 [27/32]

M. Valerius Messalla P O XV sf 19 [41+]

2 L. Caninius Gallus C s III m 12 (28/33)

**Works Cited**

Astin, A.E. (1957) “The Lex Annalis before Sulla,” *Latomus* 16, 588-613.

Badian, E (1959) “Caesar’s *Cursus* and the Intervals between Offices,” *Journal of Roman*

*Studies* 49, 81-89.

Brennan, T.C. (2000) *The Praetorship in the Roman Republic. 2 Vols*.  Oxford

Broughton, T.R.S. (1951-86) *The Magistrates of the Roman Republic*. 3 Vols. New York.

Ellers, Claude (2001) “The Proconsulship of P. Cornelius Scipio (Cos. 16 BC),” *The Classical*

*Quarterly* 51, 201-205.

Galinsky, K. (1986) *Augustan Culture*. Princeton.

Hölkeskamp, K (2010) *Reconstructing the Roman Republic*. Princeton.

Kienast, D. (1982) *Augustus: Princeps und Monarch*. Darmstadt

Morris, J.M. (1964) “The Leges Annales Under the Principate,” *Listy Filologické* 87,

316-37.

---. (1965) “The Leges Annales Under the Principate: Political Effects,” *Listy Filologické*

88, 22-31

Rotondi, G. (1912) *Leges Publicae Populi Romani*. Milan.

Syme, R. (1986) *Augustan Aristocracy*. Oxford.

---. (1987) “The Marriage Ages for Roman Senators,” *Historia* 36, 318-332.

1. The abbreviations used are: P[atrician], of C[onsular] or p[raetorian] family or N[ovus] H[omo]; O[rdinarius] or s[uffect]; offices are qu[aestor], tr[ibunus] pl[ebis], pr[aetor], T[ribunus] M[ilitum], III[vir] mon[etalis], XV[vir] s[acris] f[aciundis], fr[ater] Arv[alis], leg[atus], leg[atus] leg[ionis], proco[n]-s[ul], praef[ectus], b[orn] c[irca]. A / between dates, x & y, indicates “between x and y,” x-y means “from x to y,” –x or +x, means “younger than or older than x.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)