

# The Augustan Principate



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SPQR

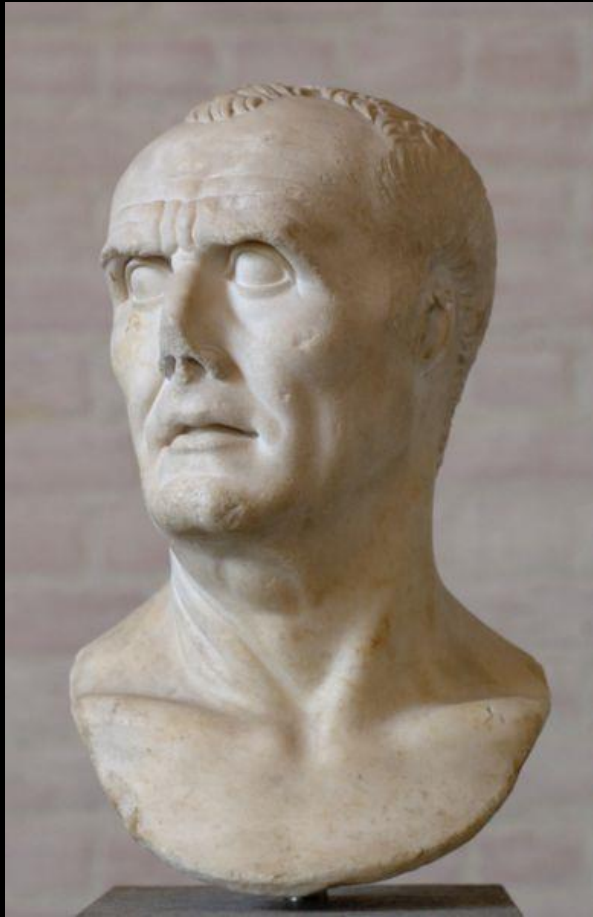
Senatus Populusque Romanus

# CURSUS HONORUM

<u>Office</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Min. Age</u>
Consul	2	42
Praetor	8	39
Aedile	4	36
Tribune	10	Unfixed
Quaestor	20	30

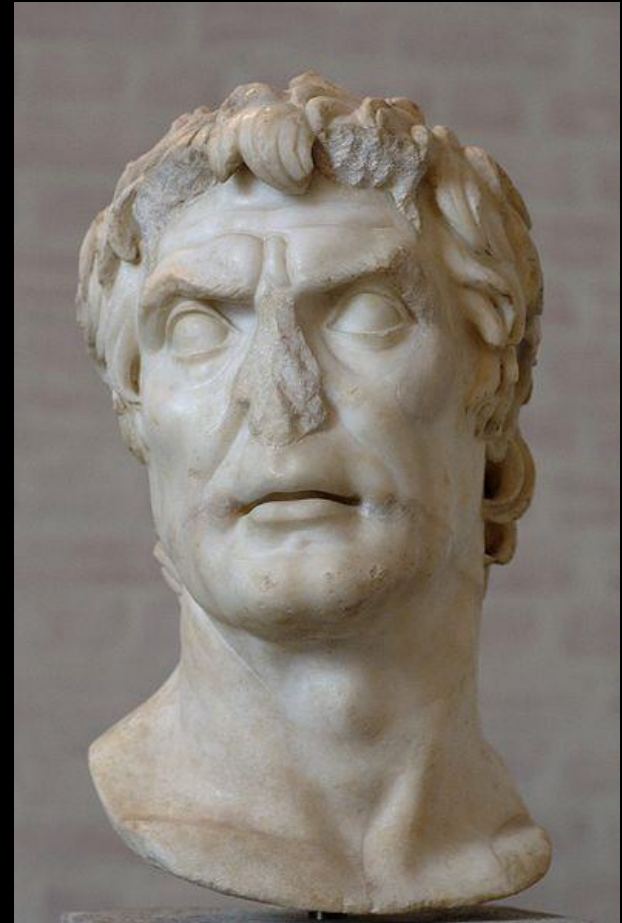
# Prorogation / Promagistrates

- *prorogatio imperii*
- Proconsul (*pro consule*)
- Propraetor (*pro praetore*)



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**Marius**  
**157 - 86**



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**Sulla**  
**138 - 78**

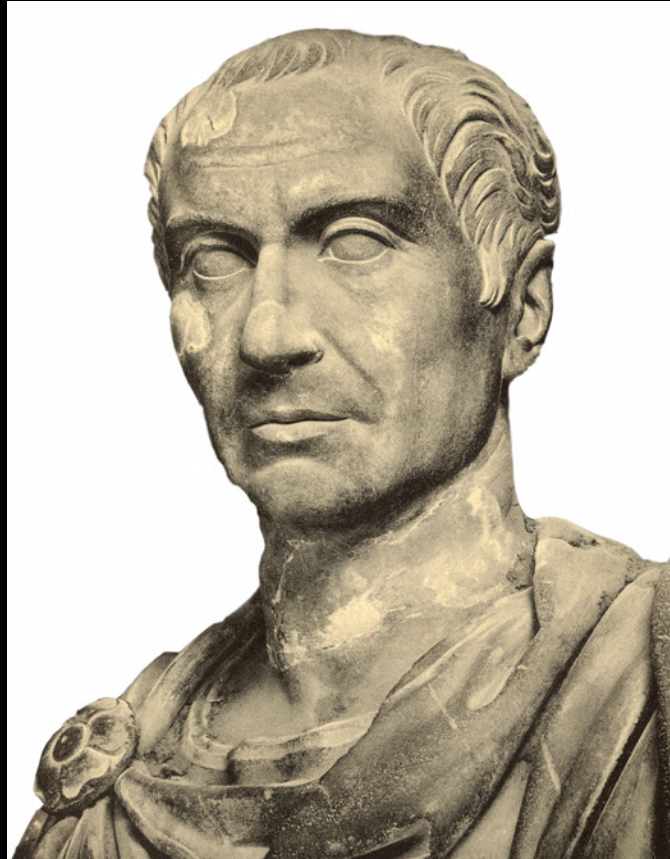


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# Pompey the Great

## 106 – 48





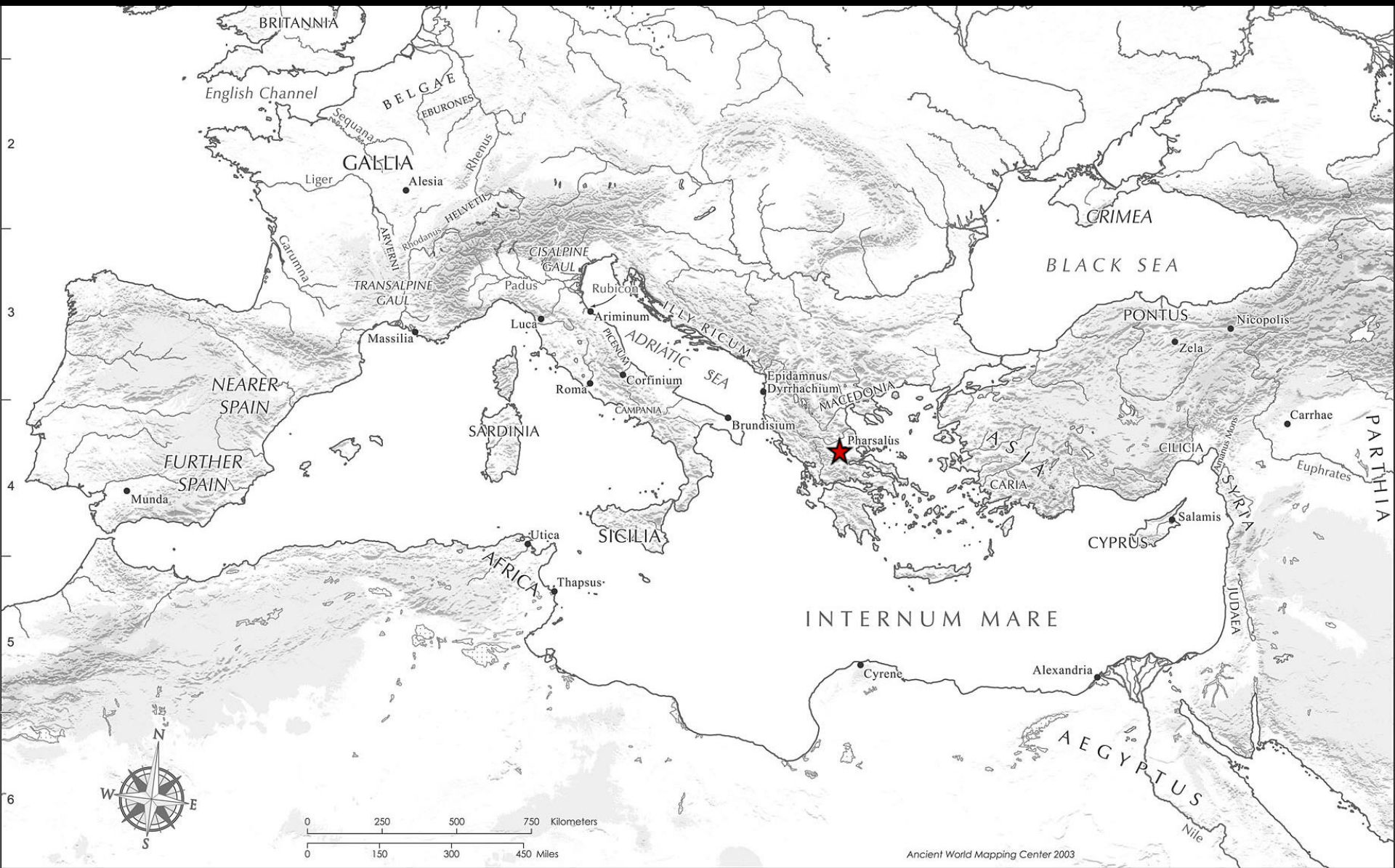
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# Gaius Julius Caesar

## 100 – 44 BC



Le Glay, Marcel, Jean-Louis Voisin, Yann Le Bohec, et al. *A History of Rome*. 3rd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2005. © Wiley-Blackwell. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



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49 BC – Crossing of the Rubicon

48 BC – Battle of Pharsalus

# Caesar Dictator



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49: Dictator I (to oversee elections)

47: Consul II

Dictator II for a year after Pharsalus

46: Consul III

Dictator III annually renewed for 10 yrs.

45: Consul IV – sole consul – resigned in Fall

Dictator IV

44: Consul V

Dictator in perpetuity

# The Assassination of Caesar

## Ides of March, 44 BC



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Denarius of Brutus, 43-42 BC

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# 44 – 30 BC

## Dramatis Personae

### “Liberators” and Pompeians

Brutus and Cassius

Cicero

Sextus Pompey

### Supporters of Caesar

M. Antonius

M. Aemilius Lepidus

Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus



# TRESVIRI REIPUBLICAE CONSTITUENDAE

Commission of Three for the Organization of the Republic



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42 BC – Battle of Philippi

➔ Death of Brutus & Cassius

36 BC – Battle of Naulochus

➔ Death of Sextus Pompey; Lepidus 'retires'



# Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa



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Tribune	43
Praetor	40
Propraetor (Gaul)	38
Consul	37

# 44 – 30 BC

## Dramatis Personae

### “Liberators” and Pompeians

~~Brutus and Cassius~~

– Died in 42

~~Cicero~~

– Killed in 43

~~Sextus Pompey~~

– Killed in 35

### Supporters of Caesar

M. Antonius

~~M. Aemilius Lepidus~~

- Retired in 36

Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus

# Antony and Octavia

Married 40 BC – 33 BC



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# Cleopatra

Cleopatra VII Philopator

Queen of Egypt – 51-30 BC

The Berlin Cleopatra  
Altes Museum, Berlin



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31 BC – Battle of Actium

➔ Death of Marc Antony



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Denarius of 28 BC

(BM 1860,0328.114)

REGAL PERIOD

753 BC (April 21) - Foundation of Rome

509 BC – Birth of Republic

REPUBLIC

27 BC - Augustus



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EMPIRE

AD 284 – Reforms of Diocletian

LATE EMPIRE

AD 476 – Deposition of Romulus Augustulus

# Evolution of Augustan Power

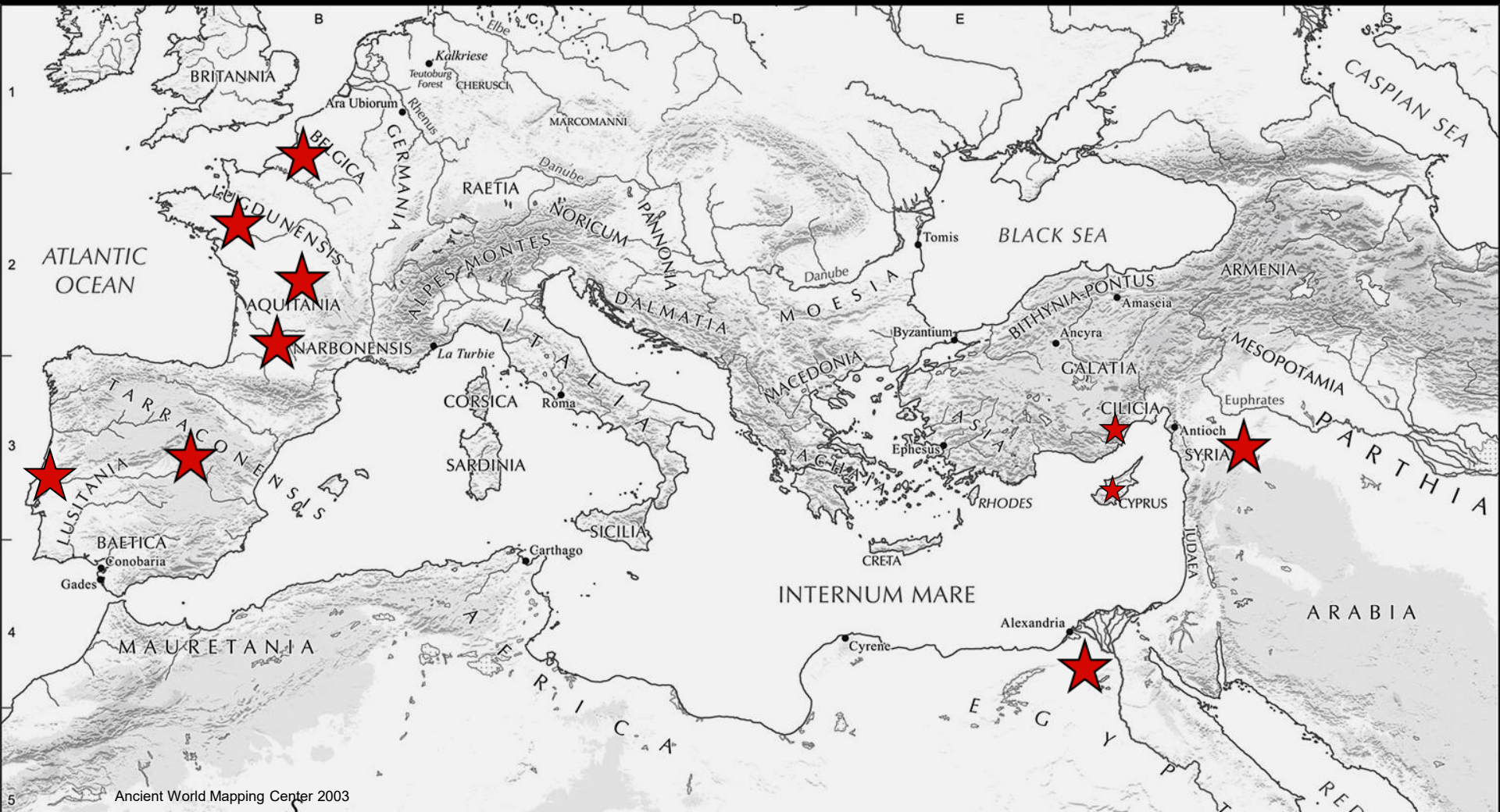
- 1) First 'constitutional settlement' – 27 BC
- 2) Second 'constitutional settlement' – 23 BC
- 3) Grant of consular power – 19 BC



# *Res Gestae*, 34

“In my sixth and seventh consulships (28–27 BC), after I had extinguished the civil wars, having become master of everything by the consent of all, I transferred the republic from my power [*potestas*] to the control of the senate and the Roman people.”

M.G.L. Cooley, ed. *The Age of Augustus*. Translated by B.W.J.G. Wilson. Cambridge University Press, 2003. © Cambridge University Press. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



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## Settlement of 27 BC

- Proconsular *Imperium* for 10 years
  - (later renewed; eventually effectively permanent)
- Control of 'imperial' provinces of:
  - Most of Spain; all of Gaul; Syria with Cilicia and Cyprus; Egypt

# Suetonius, *Augustus* 47

“The more important provinces, and those which could not easily or safely be ruled by magistrates with an annual term of command, he himself took charge of, while the others he left to the proconsuls to be distributed by lot.”

# Cassius Dio 53.12

“(Octavian’s) professed motive in this was that the senate might fearlessly enjoy the finest portion of the empire, while he himself had the hardships and the dangers; but his real purpose was that by this arrangement the senators should be unarmed and unprepared for battle, while he alone had arms and maintained soldiers.”

# Augustus' Honors in 27 BC



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## The *corona civica*

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# Augustus' Honors in 27 BC



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The *clipeus virtutis*

Arles, Musée départemental

# Consulships of Octavian/Augustus

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43 – Cos. I

33 – Cos. II\*

31 – Cos. III

30 – Cos. IV

29 – Cos. V

28 – Cos. VI

27 – Cos. VII

26 – Cos. VIII

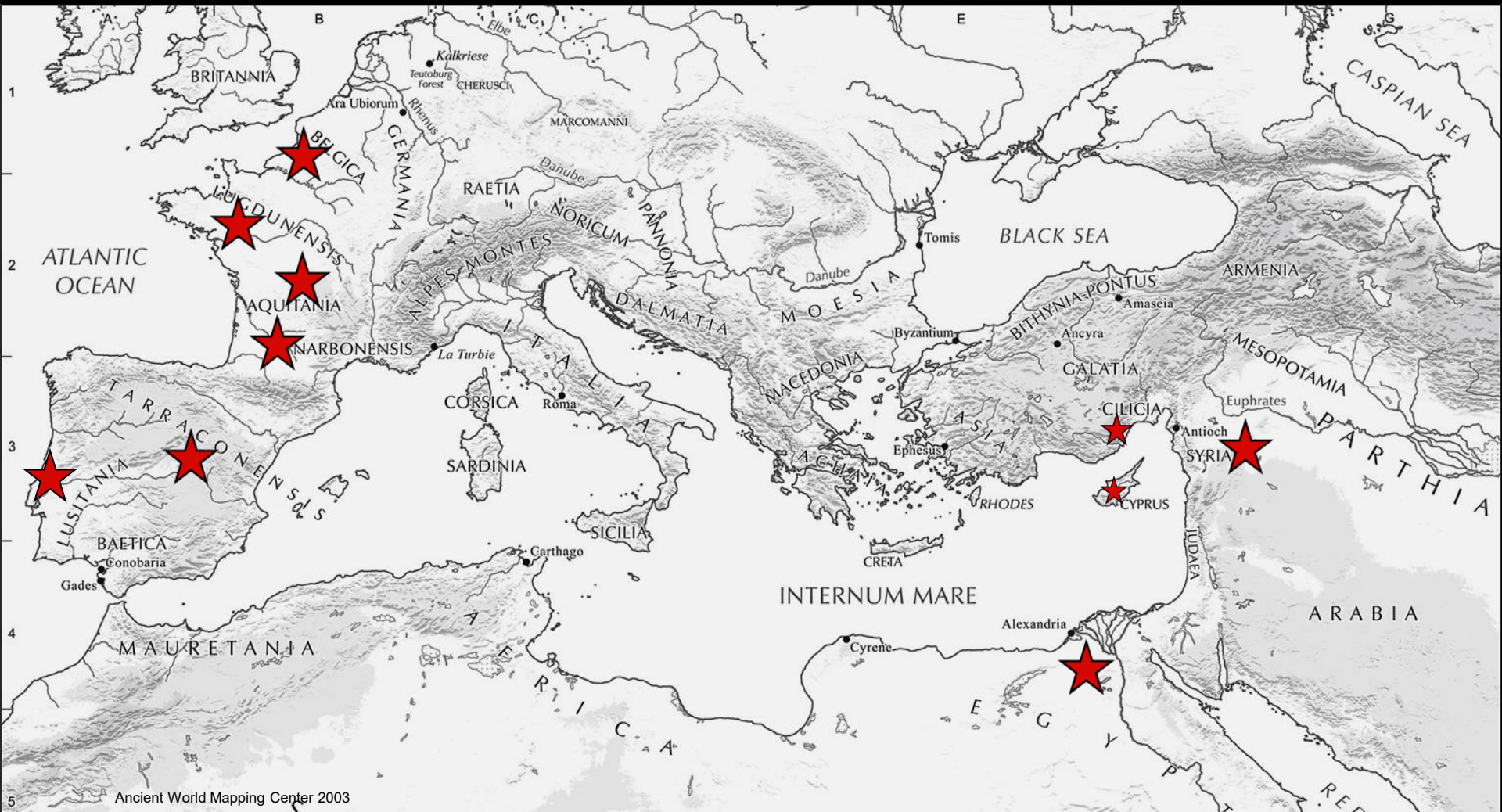
25 – Cos. IX

24 – Cos. X

23 – Cos. XI

5 – Cos. XII

2 – Cos. XIII



## Settlement of 27 BC

- Proconsular *Imperium* for 10 years
  - (later renewed; eventually effectively permanent)
- Control of 'imperial' provinces of:
  - Most of Spain; all of Gaul; Syria with Cilicia and Cyprus; Egypt



# The Roman Empire in 117 AD

- Senatorial provinces
- Imperial provinces
- Client states



# Evolution of Augustan Power

- 1) First 'constitutional settlement' – 27 BC
- 2) Second 'constitutional settlement' – 23 BC
- 3) Grant of consular power – 19 BC

# Consulships of Octavian/Augustus

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- 43 – Cos. I
- 33 – Cos. II\*
  
- 31 – Cos. III
- 30 – Cos. IV
- 29 – Cos. V
- 28 – Cos. VI
- 27 – Cos. VII
- 26 – Cos. VIII
- 25 – Cos. IX
- 24 – Cos. X
- 23 – Cos. XI
  
- 5 – Cos. XII
- 2 – Cos. XIII

# The Augustan Principate

## 'CONSTITUTIONAL' POWERS:

From 27 BC:

- Proconsular *imperium*

From 23 BC:

- *Imperium maius*
- *Tribunicia potestas* – powers of a tribune for life

From 19 BC:

- Powers of a consul for life

# The Augustan Principate

## MILITARY POWER:

- 24 Legions spread around the empire
- Praetorian Guard at Rome – 9,000 men

# Mausoleum of Augustus, Rome





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Imagery Date: Jul 29, 2007

41°53'58.31" N 12°28'48.39" E elev. 118 ft

39 Eye alt. 15937 ft



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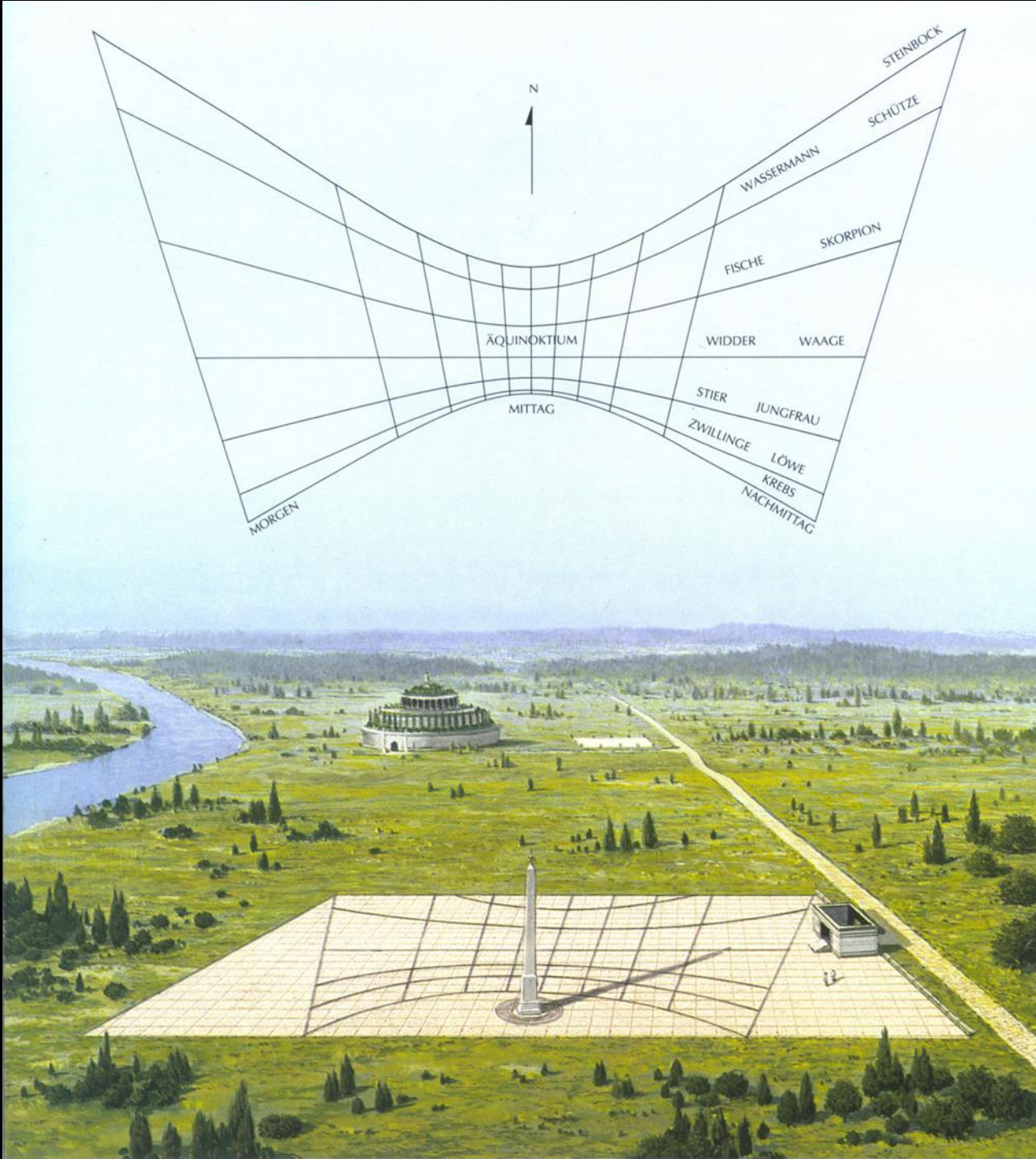
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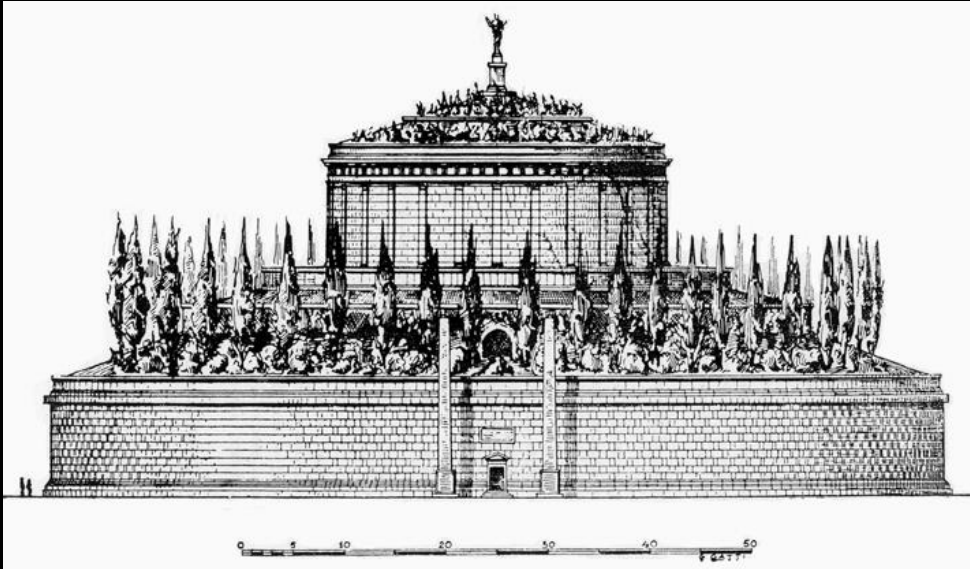
41°54'21.22" N 12°28'35.34" E elev 69 ft

Eye alt 1728 ft

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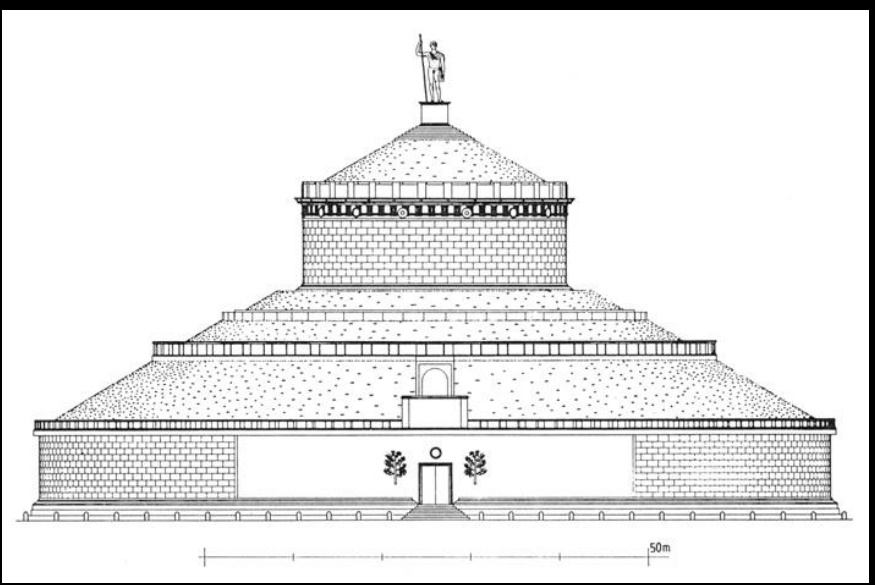






Boatwright, Mary Taliaferro. *Hadrian and the City of Rome*. Princeton University Press, 1987. © Princeton University Press. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

## Reconstruction by Gatti (1934)



von Hesberg, Henner, and Silvio Panciera. *Das Mausoleum des Augustus: Der Bau und seine Inschriften*. Verlag der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1994. © Verlag der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

## Reconstruction by von Hesberg

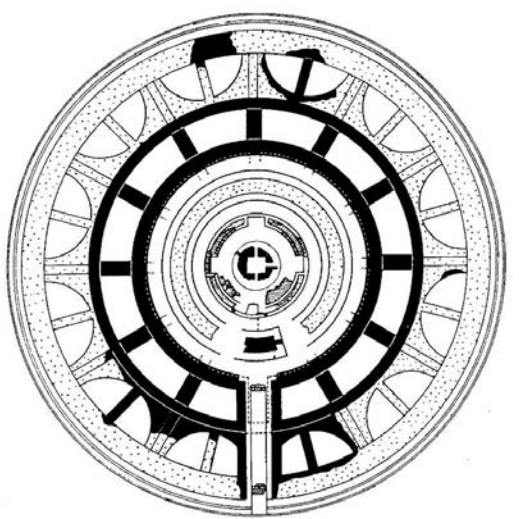


Fig. 167. *Mausoleum Augusti*. Pianta ricostruttiva (da G. Gatti, *L'Urbe* 3.8 (1938), 2 fig. 1).

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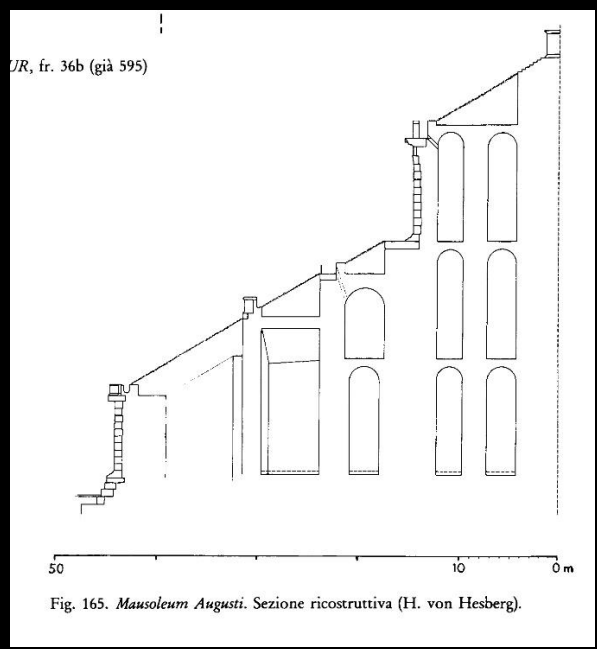


Fig. 165. *Mausoleum Augusti*. Sezione ricostruttiva (H. von Hesberg).

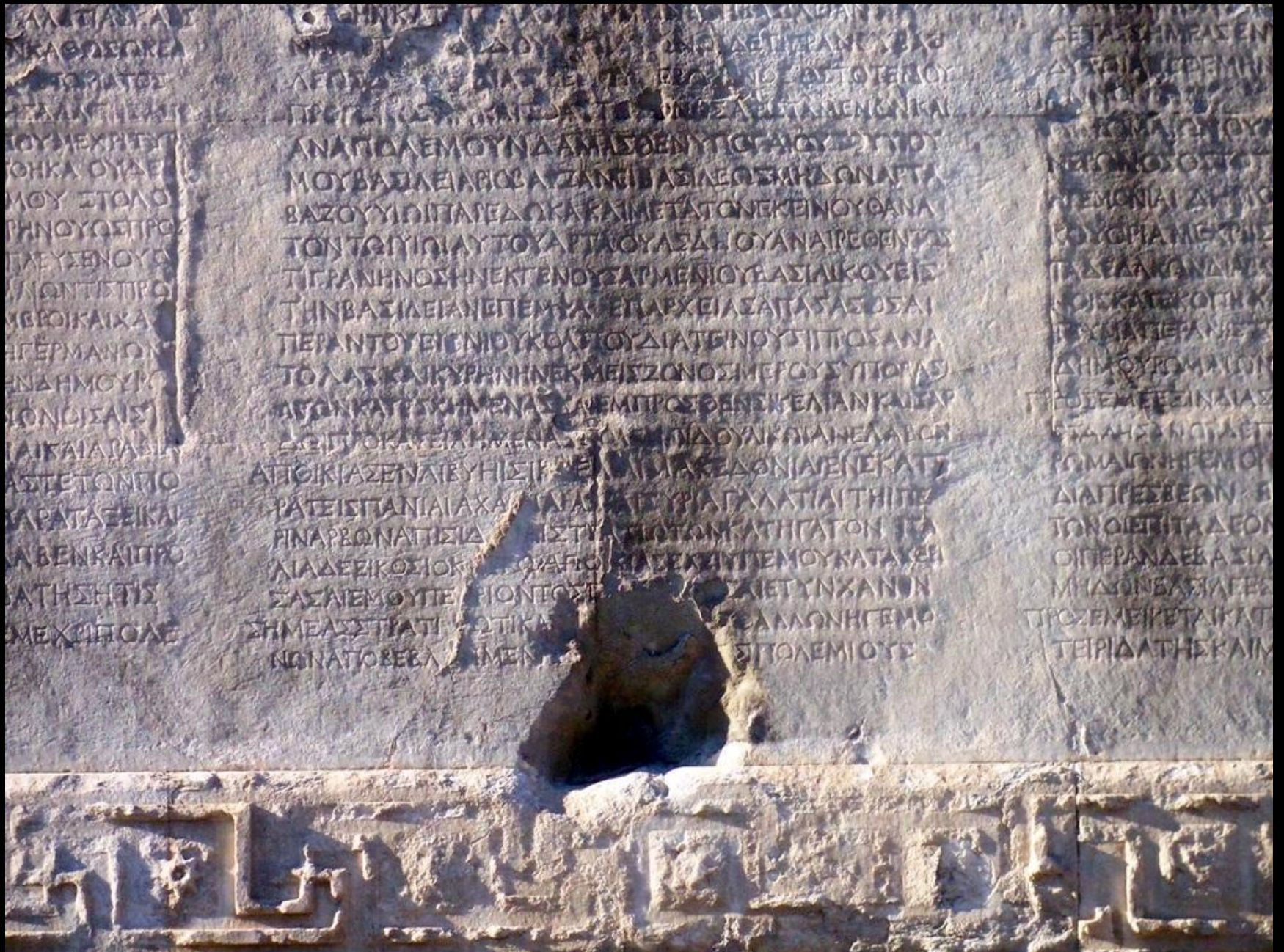
Steinby, Eva Margareta, ed. *Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae*, Vol. 3. Oxford University Press, 1997. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



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## Temple of Augustus and Rome Ankara, Turkey





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