AUGUSTUS CAESAR (OCTAVIAN)

There was great turmoil in Rome as the Gracchi attempted to reform the commonwealth. (This period of revolution would persist until it would come to its completion at the battle of Actium in 31 BCE, the decisive battle which would confirm the control of one person— the Emperor Augustus Caesar— over the entire Roman world.)

December 8: Quintus Horatius Flaccus was born in a small town in the border region between Apulia and Lucania (his hometown was called at that time Venusia but now is known as Venosa). He was a born-free son of a manumitted slave. His father had a small farm, although later the family would relocate to Rome and the father would find work as a coactor (a middleman at auctions, who paid off the seller and then collected from the buyer, typically receiving in compensation for this service 1% of the price from each of them). Horace, as we now know him, would during the reign of the Emperor Augustus Caesar be obtaining recognition as the leading Roman lyric poet. The freedman father would be able to invest considerably in education for his son, in Rome during childhood, and then by sending the young man to Athens for the study of the Greek language, and philosophy. The son would, in one of his surviving satires (1.6.65-92), express great appreciation for this:

If my character is flawed by a few minor faults, but is otherwise decent and moral, if you can point out only a few scattered blemishes on an otherwise immaculate surface, if no one can accuse me of greed, or of prurience, or of profligacy, if I live a virtuous life, free of defilement (pardon, for a moment, my self-praise), and if I am to my friends a good friend, it is my father who deserves all the credit for this ... he deserves from me unstinting gratitude and praise. I could never be ashamed of such a father nor do I feel any need, as many people do, to apologize for being a freedman’s son.
September 23: Octavian was born at Rome to Gaius Octavius and Atia.

He would receive early training from a great uncle, Julius Caesar, and in 27 BCE would become the Emperor Augustus Caesar.

At about this point, the Funeral Oration for Octavian’s grandmother Julia.

Curio, as tribune of the people, represented the interests of Gaius Julius Caesar. Mark Antony was elected augur, and also was elected to function as tribune of the people for the following year.

October 18: The ceremony of Toga virilis was conducted for Octavian as he legally entered upon his manhood at the age of 15.
March 17: Yet another battle involving our favorite pushy people, the Romans: at the plain of Munda on the Iberian peninsula the legions of Gaius Julius Caesar defeated the legions of Titus Labienus and Gnaeus Pompeius (Pompey’s oldest son), creating the Pax Romana.

Octavian was with Julius Caesar during this battle. Later he would go to Apollonia to study and to await his uncle’s expedition to Parthia.

Mark Antony would meet Julius Caesar on the latter’s return from Spain, and traveled with him in his carriage.

269 The first coining of silver at Rome.
264 The first Punic war begins, and continues 23 years. The chronology of the Arundelian marbles composed.
260 The Romans first concern themselves in naval affairs, and defeat the Carthaginians at sea.
237 Hamilcar the Carthaginian causes his son Hannibal, at nine years old, to swear eternal enmity to the Romans.
218 The second Punic war begins, and continues 17 years. Hannibal passes the Alps, and defeats the Romans in several battles; but being amused by his women, does not improve his victories by the storming of Rome.
190 The first Roman army enters Asia, and from the spoils of Antiochus brings the Asiatic luxury first to Rome.
168 Perseus defeated by the Romans, which ends the Macedonian kingdom.
167 The first library erected at Rome, of books brought from Macedonia.
163 The Government of Judea under the Maccabees begins, and continues 126 years.
146 Carthage, the rival to Rome, is razed to the ground by the Romans.
135 The history of the Apocrypha ends.
52 Julius Caesar makes his first expedition into Britain.
47 The battle of Pharsalia, between Caesar and Pompey, in which the latter is defeated.
The Alexandrian library, consisting of 400,000 valuable books, burnt by accident.
45 The war of Africa, in which Cato kills himself.
The solar year introduced by Caesar.
March 15: On the Ides of March, Gaius *Julius Caesar* the *Dictator Perpetuus* allegedly was assassinated by Brutus *et al* in the Senate-house (or perhaps suffered a fatal epileptic fit). When Caesar’s will is opened, it is discovered that he has adopted *Octavian* and designated him as his principal heir.

*Cleopatra* fled from *Rome* to *Alexandria* with her son by Caesar, *Caesarion*. The civil wars would soon begin again, with Brutus and Cassius at the head of the aristocratic party, and with the party of Caesar being led by Mark *Antony* and *Octavian* (afterwards *Augustus Caesar*):

We say this was 44 BCE although the *Romans* considered a year to have begun on the 18th birthday of Romulus, *circa* 750 BCE — so from their standpoint this was happening in the year 706 of the city of *Rome*.

The Romans did not have a seven-day week and did not count the days of a month beginning with 1. Instead, the Roman monthly *calendar* was based on the first three phases of the moon, and three days of a month had
unique names. Each month began with a day of the new moon referred to as the Kalends, the day on which bills were due for payment. (Romans were all about payment, and their KALENDARium was an account-book in which creditors entered the names of their debtors and the sums which they owed; this vital ledger was so called because interest on borrowed money was due on the Kalendae of each month.)

Then when the moon reached its first quarter that was the day of the Nones, this happening usually on the 5th or 7th of the month. A day referred to as the Ides would come on the 13th or 15th of the month, when the moon supposedly was full. (I say “supposedly” because the calendar in use was an accident waiting to happen, and kept drifting out of whack.)

They never counted in terms of days after, only in terms of days before. Their full phrase for “on the second of January” was “ante diem quartum nonas Januarias.” The phrase “ante diem,” commonly abbreviated as “ad,” might be omitted, the name of the day becoming “quartum nonas Januarias.” Thus:

- To refer to “March 1st,” in Latin, one says “the Kalends of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 2nd,” in Latin, one says “V Nonas Martius” or “5 days before the Nones of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 3rd,” in Latin, one says “IV Nonas Martius” or “4 days before the Nones of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 4th,” in Latin, one says “III Nonas Martius” or “3 days before the Nones of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 5th,” in Latin, one says “II Nonas Martius” or “2 days before the Nones of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 6th,” in Latin, one says “I Nonas Martius” or “the day before the Nones of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 7th,” in Latin, one says “the Nones of Martius.” (The Nones was the 7th day in Martius, Maius, Quinctilis, and October, and the 5th in other months.)
- To refer to “March 8th,” in Latin, one says “VII Ides Martius” or “7 days before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 9th,” in Latin, one says “VI Ides Martius” or “6 days before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 10th,” in Latin, one says “V Ides Martius” or “5 days before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 11th,” in Latin, one says “IV Ides Martius” or “4 days before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 12th,” in Latin, one says “III Ides Martius” or “3 days before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 13th,” in Latin, one says “II Ides Martius” or “2 days before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 14th,” in Latin, one says “I Ides Martius” or “the day before the Ides of Martius.”
- To refer to “March 15th,” in Latin, one says “the Ides of Martius.” (The Ides was the 15th day in Martius, Maius, July, and Quinctilis, and the 13th in other months.)
- To refer to “March 16th,” in Latin, one says “XVI Kalends Aprilis” or “16 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
- To refer to “March 17th,” in Latin, one says “XV Kalends Aprilis” or “15 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
- To refer to “March 18th,” in Latin, one says “XIV Kalends Aprilis” or “14 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
- To refer to “March 19th,” in Latin, one says “XIII Kalends Aprilis” or “13 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 20th,” in Latin, one says “XII Kalends Aprilis” or “12 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 21st,” in Latin, one says “XI Kalends Aprilis” or “11 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 22nd,” in Latin, one says “X Kalends Aprilis” or “10 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 23rd,” in Latin, one says “IX Kalends Aprilis” or “9 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 24th,” in Latin, one says “VIII Kalends Aprilis” or “8 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 25th,” in Latin, one says “VII Kalends Aprilis” or “7 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 26th,” in Latin, one says “VI Kalends Aprilis” or “6 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 27th,” in Latin, one says “V Kalends Aprilis” or “5 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 28th,” in Latin, one says “IV Kalends Aprilis” or “4 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 29th,” in Latin, one says “III Kalends Aprilis” or “3 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 30th,” in Latin, one says “II Kalends Aprilis” or “2 days before the Kalends of Aprilis.”
• To refer to “March 31st,” in Latin, one says “I Kalends Aprilis” or “the day before the Kalends of Aprilis.”

I should mention, however, that I fancy that Caesar was not assassinated on the Ides of March. I think what happened was that unexpectedly the guy had one of his epileptic fits, and croaked, and then his political cronies had suddenly to figure out how they were going to spin this — and they decided they would make this perfectly ordinary death appear as if it had been a foul assassination by their political rivals. My reasons for inferring that this was what happened is that they got a bit too dramatic, and a bit too superstitious, in their playing out of the scenario. For instance, they claimed the corpse had the exact number of stab wounds as the number of political-rival assassins whom they were entitled to hunt down and summarily off, in spite of the fact that upon autopsy this corpse was found to have only one fatal stab-wound. They claimed that their leader had known that he was in special danger on this day and yet had dismissed his bodyguard, to approach his known enemies against whom he had been warned entirely unarmed and unguarded. They claimed to have found a piece of parchment clutched in the cold bloody fist, that provided them with the names of the assassins — but this of course is so preposterous that today it would be presumed to be direct evidence of a frame-up. Since Caesar had been proclaimed as a deity, we can understand that for him to have become understood to have died of one of his epileptic fits would have been for him to have been unmasked as no deity at all, but instead revealed as an impostor — with the most extreme of political consequences for his cronies. An immortal may not die of some disgustingly ordinary illness; however, a man proclaimed immortal may yet die due to the agency of evil-wishing others. Therefore the political colleagues of this tin hero, I suspect, made a list of all the problem people, senators whom otherwise they would have needed to neutralize, and solved their two problems at once by inserting this list into the bloody grip. They solved their immediate problem, of how an immortal can perish and still be allowed as a deity, and simultaneously they solved totally their grand problem, of how to maintain their control over the city and the empire.
March 17: Mark Antony, as surviving consul, convened the Roman Senate, and with Lepidus as magister equitum, established order. The senate confirmed the acts of Gaius Julius Caesar, but offered amnesties to his murderers, and agreed to the terms of his will being read out, and to a public funeral, which would be spectacularly stage-managed by Antony. Octavian, to everyone’s surprise and to Antony’s fury, was discovered to be Caesar’s principal heir. Antony managed to get his appointment for the following year as governor of Macedonia switched to a 5-year tenure in Cisalpine Gaul, and appropriated four legions stationed in Macedonia. Marcus Tullius Cicero began his “Philippics,” attacking Antony, who left for Cisalpine Gaul and besieged Decimus Brutus, the province’s previous governor, in Mutina.

April 18: Octavian was at Naples.

April 19: Octavian met with Marcus Tullius Cicero and Balbus. Afterward he would visit Philippus’s villa in Puteoli and Cicero’s villa in Cumae.

Early May: Octavian met with Mark Antony at the Horti Pompei (Pompey’s Gardens) in Rome, to attempt to collect his legacy because Mark Antony had placed himself in actual possession of Julius Caesar’s papers and fortune.

In May and June, in China and in Korea, a reddish-yellow comet had been observed, with its tail spanning some 12 degrees in the northwest. Within a few days it was near the constellation of Orion, and it had a 15-degree tail that had rotated toward the northeast. The Comet of 44 BC and Caesar’s Funeral Games was published by Scholars Press on the ides of March in 1997, the 2,040th anniversary of Caesar’s demise. Written by John Ramsey of the Classics Department and Lewis Licht of the Physics Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago, this study draws upon the sources in the Orient, as well as the Greco-Roman world, to shed new light on the probable orbit of the great daylight comet seen in the north for three to seven days in July 44 BCE during the games that Octavian was holding in honor of the supposedly assassinated Gaius Julius Caesar (actually, he may merely have had one of his epileptic fits and died in a manner very much unlike what we imagine as the apotheosis of a deity, after which his political colleagues made it look like a political assassination in order to be able to legitimize their killing off of a good bunch of the opposition politicians), and on the factors that caused it to be treated not as a baleful omen but as a sign of Caesar’s apotheosis. For details, visit http://www.uic.edu/las/clas/comet; or send e-mail to comet@uic.edu.

In this period of the earth’s history, there was no “North Star” marking the direction of the North Pole.

As constellations progress across the sky through the course of a single night, they change their orientation, but not their defining patterns, or their relative spacings. Waldo Emerson lauded this permanence:

“Teach me your mood, O patient stars!
Who climb each night the ancient sky,
Leaving no space, no shade, no scars,

ASTRONOMY
The changing appearance of the earth’s moon, however, has fascinated all cultures. Some have professed to be comforted by the faithful regularity of its gentle waxing and waning, fortnight by fortnight. Others, however, have been troubled by this as it is construed to be inconstancy in the heavens, which is exactly the wrong place for there to be inconstancy. Thus in William Shakespeare’s romance, when Romeo attempts a pledge on the moon, this is a wrong move as it does nothing but distress his Juliet:

Romeo:  
Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear  
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops  
Juliet:  
O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circled orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable. (II.2.109-111)

Eclipses are not only changes, but because they bring darkness, they are an even worse sign of disaster. Having just murdered his wife Desdemona, Othello wonders how she can look so virtuous and wonders why no disruption in nature comes as a sign of the universe being so out of order:

...She’s dead...  
Still as the grave...  
I think she stirs again...  
My wife, my wife! I have no wife.  
O insupportable! O heavy hour!  
Methinks it should be now a huge eclipse  
Of sun and moon, and that th’ affrighted globe
Comets show up at unpredictable times, thus upsetting the invariance of the universe, and so they obviously also are omens of evil to come. In “Henry VI,” the Duke of Bedford remarks upon the death of the greatest English hero, Henry V:

Comets, importing change of times and states, 
Brandish your crystal tresses in the sky, 
And with them scourge the bad revolting stars 
That have consented unto Henry’s death. (I.1.2-5)

The planets are wanderers, and wandering is considered to be inherently disorderly. Disorder, in the heavens where only the perfection of order ought to appear, produces uncertainty and foretells disaster here below. As Ulysses observes in “Troilus and Cressida”:

...when the planets 
In evil mixture to disorder wander, 
What plagues and what portents, what mutiny, 
What raging of the sea, shaking of the earth, 
Commotion in the winds, frights, changes, horrors, 
Divert and crack, rend and deracinate 
The unity and married calm of states 
Quite from their fixture! (I.3.94-101)

In contrast, the playwright has his main Roman, in his tragedy “Julius Caesar,” affirm himself to be “constant as the Northern Star, of whose true fixed and resting quality there is no fellow in the firmament.” How stalwart is this politician Julius! When the conspirators pretend to plea that Gaius Julius Caesar should pardon the exiled Publius Cimber, great Caesar is entirely unswayed:

Caesar: I could be well moved, if I were as you 
But I am constant as the Northern Star, 
Of whose true fixed and resting quality 
There is no fellow in the firmament. 
The skies are painted with unnumbered sparks; 
They are all fire, and every one doth shine. 
But there’s one in all doth hold his place. 
So in the world: ’tis furnished well with men, 
And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive. 
Yet in the number I do know but one 
That unassailable holds onto his rank, 
Unshaked of motion; and that I am he 
Let me a little show it, even in this: 
That I was constant Cimber should be banished
And constant do remain to keep him so. (III.1.64-79)

Shakespeare was, evidently, supposing the star Polaris, marking the earth’s north pole, to be, as opposed to the planet’s inconstant moon, some sort of gold standard of astronomical fixity — though in fact it is variable. Astronomers have known for some time that although this object 310 light years away from us now hangs in our sky roughly above the earth’s North Pole, it has not always been in such a position, definitely will not in the remote future be in that position, and anyway, is a Cepheid variable the visibility of which can be expected to change markedly from time to time. The Earth’s axis precesses (it is like a wobbling top), so in about 14,000 years, Vega (the brightest star in the constellation Lyra) will be the North Star, and then in another 5,000 years it will be Alpha Cephei (the brightest star in the constellation Cepheus), but at the completion of the entire cycle of 26,000 years — it will be Polaris again. This cycle known as precession is caused by the gravitational attraction of the sun and the moon, acting on the fact that the planet Earth is not quite spherical. Back in the time of the Egyptian pharaohs, however it had another star, Thuban (the brightest star in the constellation Draco), that had functioned as this planet’s North Star. Over time, as the axis of our planet has tipped, the constellation Draco had been moving along, and so by the 1st Century BCE, during the reign of Julius Caesar, there was no star at all in that polar position — only a pretend Caesar with the sensibilities of Shakespeare’s era could have made such a remark about stellar constancy. For, by Shakespeare’s era, Polaris had wandered into the region near the pole once occupied by Thuban — and Shakespeare, no astronomer, was presuming incorrectly that this had ever been so.

A “Cepheid variable” is a type of star that has almost exhausted its hydrogen fuel and is, consequently, caught in a cycle of bloating and collapsing. Polaris brightens or dims every four days or so, and over the period of time that we have been observing it, these pulsations have been slowing, with its period of oscillation between bright and dim lengthening by about eight seconds each year. Even on average, the brightness of Polaris has historically been unstable. For instance, over the past half a century it has now brightened on average by 10%, becoming a star of the 2d magnitude of brightness (magnitude is a scale devised by the Greek astronomer Hipparchus around 120 BCE ranking stars from 1st-magnitude bright, very bright and noticeable in the heavens, to 6th-magnitude dim, so dim as to be next to invisible — its change from 3d magnitude to 2d magnitude would indicate that Polaris has become about 2.5 times as bright as it had been a couple of millennia ago), but during Thoreau’s 19th Century, it appears to have been on average about 20% dimmer even than before it began this current brightening trend. During the 16th Century, according to Tycho Brahe, it had been even dimmer. In 140 CE, when Ptolemy of Alexandria had made a star catalog, he had listed Polaris as a star of the 3d magnitude, and in the 10th Century, when the Persian astronomer al-Sufi had checked Ptolemy’s...
evaluations, he had confirmed Ptolemy’s evaluation of Polaris as a star of merely the 3d magnitude.

Actually, it is incorrect to refer to the Big Dipper (in England this is known as “the plough,” to American slaves it was “the drinking gourd”) as a constellation. Among the 88 groups of stars that are officially recognized and listed as constellations, there is of course the constellation Ursa Major. The Big Dipper, however, is merely a conspicuous portion of that constellation. Such a star pattern as the Big Dipper is referred to as an asterism, rather than as a constellation. This asterism is presently helpful, for it presently helps us to identify Polaris, the North Star. Two bright stars mark the outer edge of the bowl of the Big Dipper. These two stars –Dubhe and Merak– we term the Pointer Stars, due to the fact that they direct our eyes toward Polaris. Draw a line across the night sky, in your imagination, between these two stars, and then prolong this line about 5 times, and your eyes will arrive at a moderately bright star. Polaris. –But that is merely for the present, as, of the seven stars that make up this asterism, five of the closer ones (78 to 84 light years from Earth) are swarming through space at roughly the same speed and in the same direction, but two of the farther away ones (Alkaid, 101 light years from Earth, and Dubhe, 124 light years from Earth) are moving at a different speed in an opposite direction. Due to these differing motions, the asterism now known as the Big Dipper will eventually tear itself apart. The bent handle will bend even more, while the spreading bowl will spread even more. In 50,000 years there will no longer be a recognizable dipper shape.

There remains an unanswered question, however. Why would it have been that, in *Walden*, Thoreau identified the pole star as having the name Kalpa? –For, in Hindu cosmology, “Kalpa” is not the name assigned to any object, but instead is the name assigned to a very lengthy period of time.
**WALDEN**: There was an artist in the city of Kouroo who was disposed to strive after perfection. One day it came into his mind to make a staff. Having considered that in an imperfect work time is an ingredient, but into a perfect work time does not enter, he said to himself, It shall be perfect in all respects, though I should do nothing else in my life. He proceeded instantly to the forest for wood, being resolved that it should not be made of unsuitable material; and as he searched for and rejected stick after stick, his friends gradually deserted him, for they grew old in their works and died, but he grew not older by a moment. His singleness of purpose and resolution, and his elevated piety, endowed him, without his knowledge, with perennial youth. As he made no compromise with Time, Time kept out of his way, and only sighed at a distance because he could not overcome him. Before he had found a stock in all respects suitable the city of Kouroo was a hoary ruin, and he sat on one of its mounds to peel the stick. Before he had given it the proper shape the dynasty of the Candahars was at an end, and with the point of the stick he wrote the name of the last of that race in the sand, and then resumed his work. By the time he had smoothed and polished the staff Kalpa was no longer the pole-star; and ere he had put on the ferule and the head adorned with precious stones, Brahma had awoke and slumbered many times. But why do I stay to mention these things? When the finishing stroke was put to his work, it suddenly expanded before the eyes of the astonished artist into the fairest of all the creations of Brahma. He had made a new system in making a staff, a world with full and fair proportions; in which, though the old cities and dynasties had passed away, fairer and more glorious ones had taken their places. And now he saw by the heap of shavings still fresh at his feet, that, for him and his work, the former lapse of time had been an illusion, and that no more time had elapsed than is required for a single scintillation from the brain of Brahma to fall on and inflame the tinder of a mortal brain. The material was pure, and his art was pure; how could the result be other than wonderful?
Following the death of Julius Caesar, many Romans had been proscribed by Mark Antony. For instance, Marcus Terentius Varro had been proscribed, resulting in the loss of much of his property, including his library. We describe this as the 3d Period of Civil Wars (Octavian Caesar, M. Junius Brutus, Mark Antony, C. Cassius Longinus). As the Republic would give way to Empire, Varro would gain the favour of Augustus, under whose protection he would find the security and quiet to devote himself to study and writing.¹

April 14: At Forum Gallorum, the forces of Mark Antony were defeated.

¹ Varro’s writings would be extensive, and have been estimated to have consisted of some 74 works in some 620 books — Quintilian would characterize him as “the most learned of the Romans.” Only one of these 74 works survives complete, the others existing only in fragments, mostly recovered from Gellius’s Noctes Atticae. His compilation of a “Varronian chronology,” an attempt to establish a detailed year-by-year timeline of Roman history based on the traditional sequence of the consuls of the Roman Republic, would be of use to historians. He eked out his consular framework, where details did not fit, through the insertion of dictatorial and anarchic years. This is what would be inscribed on the Arch of Augustus in Rome, and although that arch no longer stands its substance is perpetuated under the rubric “Fasti Capitolini.” His Nine Books of Disciplines, in which he wrote on grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, musical theory, medicine, and architecture, would be a model for later encyclopedists such as Pliny the Elder.

Still extant works:

- De lingua latina libri XXV (On the Latin Language in 25 Books; of which six survive, partly mutilated)
- Rerum Rusticarum libri III (Agricultural Topics in Three Books)

Known lost works:

- Saturarum Menippearum libri CL or Menippean Satires in 150 books
- Antiquitates rerum humanarum et divinarum libri XLI
- Logistoricon libri LXXVI
- Hebdomades vel de imaginibus
- Disciplinarum libri IX (An encyclopedia on the liberal arts, of which the first book dealt with grammar)
- De rebus urbanis libri III
- De gente populi Romani libri IIII (cf. Augustine, “De civitate dei” xxi. 8.)
- De sua vita libri III
- De familiis troianis
- De antiqutate litterarum libri II (addressed to the tragic poet Lucius Accius; it’s therefore one of his earliest writings)
- De origine linguae latinae libri III (addressed to Pompey; cf. Augustine, “De civitate dei” xxii. 28.)
- Περὶ Χαρακτήρων (in at least three books, on the formation of words)
- Quaestiones Plautinae libri V (containing interpretations of rare words found in the comedies of Plautus)
- De similitudine verborum libri III (on regularity in forms and words)
- De utilitate sermonis libri IIII (on the principle of anomaly or irregularity)
- De sermone latino libri V (?) (addressed to Marcellus, on orthography and the metres of poetry)
- De philosophia (cf. Augustine, “De civitate dei” xix. 1.)
Herod the Great took the line, in presenting himself before Mark Antony and Octavian, that although his father had indeed helped Julius Caesar’s murderers, this had been done only under duress. Evidently they were sufficiently persuaded, or were willing to pretend that they were sufficiently persuaded, for they would appoint him tetrarch of Galilee. This would of course bring a potful of trouble, as many Jews still considered this Herodian family, recent converts and good friends of the Roman intrusives, despite the undeniable fact of the rebuilding of the holy temple in Jerusalem, to be what you might term fake Jews.

Yet more altercations involving our favorite pushy people, the Romans: 1st Philippi battle, fought to a draw between Mark Antony and incidentally Octavian Caesar, versus M. Junius Brutus and C. Cassius Longinus, and then the 2nd Philippi battle, fought by M. Antonius and Octavian Caesar versus M. Junius Brutus (C. Cassius Longinus having committed suicide) — restoring the Pax Romana. Death of M. Junius Brutus. (Dissension would soon break out between Octavian Caesar and Mark Antony, rupturing the Pax Romana.)
As a teenager Albius Tibullus seems to have lost much of his property during the confiscations by Mark Antony and Octavian (as has recently been so aptly described in the HBO television series “Rome”).

During this year and the following one there would be an extended conflict in Perusia between the legions of Octavian, on the one side, and those of Lucius Antonius (a brother of Mark Antony) and his wife Fulvia.

Mark Antony met Cleopatra at Tarsus and followed her to Egypt, where he would spend the winter. Cleopatra would become again pregnant.

At Cleopatra’s insistence, Antony ordered the execution of her younger sister Arsinoe, who had sought sanctuary at Ephesus.

Finally Octavian defeated Antony’s brother Lucius Antonius and his wife Fulvia, at Perusia.
Fulvia died. Presumably, therefore, by this time Octavian had written the six lines mentioning her that have been preserved for us by Martial, a little poem that presents us with four uses of the Latin verb *futuo*, to fuck. It is to be noted that one of these lines presents the verb as coming from the mouth of Fulvia, a woman—which must have made this little poem even more problematic:

```latex
Quod futuit Glaphyran Antonius, hanc mihi poenam
   Fulvia constituit, se quoque uti futuam.
Fulviam ego ut futuam? quid si me Manius oret
   pedicem? faciam? non, puto, si sapiam.
  "aut futue aut pugnemus" ait. quid quod mihi vita
   carior est ipsa mentula? signa canant!
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A LITERAL TRANSLATION, DEVOID OF ANY ATTEMPT AT POETRY: "Because Antony is fucking Glaphyra, Fulvia decrees the following penalty for me, that I should fuck her too. I fuck Fulvia? What if Manius begged me to bugger him? Should I do it? Not, I think, if I had any sense. ‘Either fuck or fight,’ she says. What of the fact that my penis is dearer to me than life itself? Let the trumpets sound!"
Antigonus attempted again the seize the throne, this time with the help of the Parthians. This time he was more successful and Herod the Great was forced to flee to Rome and ask the Romans to intercede with their legions. The Roman Senate appointed Herod as “King of the Jews.”

Mark Antony returned to Italy.

At Brundisium a treaty was forged between the Triumvirs Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus: Octavian was to focus his operations in the West (Spain, Sardinia, Sicily, Transalpine Gaul, Narbonne), Antony in the East (Macedonia, Asia, Bithynia, Cilicia, Syria), and Lepidus in Africa (Tunisia, Algeria). To seal this deal, Antony was given Octavian’s sister Octavia as his wife, this of course meaning that he was somehow being expected to set not Egypt but Cleopatra aside. However, six month after Antony left Alexandria, Cleopatra gave birth to fraternal twins, first Alexander Helios (“Sun”) and then Cleopatra Selene (“Moon”).
It seemed like a good idea at the time in Rome, so Mark Antony and Octavian Caesar appointed their friend Herod the Great to be king of Judea.

At Tarentum a treaty was forged in which Mark Antony and Octavian Caesar ceded the major islands of Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea to Sextus Pompeius as a “protectorate.” Octavian Caesar took as his wife Scribonia, a relative of Sextus Pompeius, with whom he would have one daughter who would be called Julia.

Mark Antony returned to Athens with Octavia. His legate Ventidius restored order in Syria and Asia Minor. Octavia gave birth to Antonia Major, grandmother of the emperor Nero.
After Octavian Caesar had engaged the ships of Sextus Pompey in two indecisive sea battles, Sextus Pompey lost his fleet to storms.

After Octavian Caesar’s wife Scribonia had given birth to a daughter, Julia, he divorced her in order to marry Livia.

Octavian Caesar charged Mark Antony to meet him at Brundisium, but when the forces of Mark Antony arrived at Brundisium the forces of Octavian Caesar was not there. Mark Antony then led his men in a return toward the east.

The mandate of the 2d Triumvirate, which had been for five years, came to its close.

Mark Antony’s legate Ventidius celebrated a triumph in Rome, but soon afterward died.
The mandate of the 2d Triumvirate (Octavian Caesar, Mark Antony, and Lepidus, although this 3d member was no longer around) was renewed by the Senate of Rome for an additional 5 years.

Romans legions subdued Judaea, and with the execution of Antigonus, the Hasmonean dynasty ended. Herod the Great, who had been named by the Roman Senate as King of the Jews, took up his duties as sole ruler in Judaea and assumed for himself the title basileus, beginning a Herodian Dynasty (he would rule there for 34 years).

Mark Antony sent Octavia, pregnant with their 2d child, back to Italy, and Cleopatra joined him in Antioch.

At the naval base of Naples Marcus Vispanius Agrippa was training a great new fleet.
Yet further battles involving our favorite pushy people: at Naulochus in Sicily, Octavian Caesar, with the help of Marcus Vispanius Agrippa and Lepidus, defeated Sextus Pompey, and at Phraaspano, a battle was fought to a draw between the legions of Mark Antony and the Parthians under Phraates IV — these of course constituting attempts to restore the Pax Romana. When the Triumvir Lepidus then attempted to take over the island of Sicily, he and his army and his navy were forced into exile. What this meant was that henceforth any struggle would pit the East under Mark Antony against the Romans in the West under Octavian Caesar. In any such struggle Octavian Caesar would have access to considerably more military resources than Mark Antony. By the elimination of Lepidus, that is, Octavian Caesar came into control of Africa and thus became the effective sole ruler in Rome.

Failure of Mark Antony’s Parthian expedition.

Birth, to Mark Antony and Octavia, of Antonia Minor, mother of the emperor Claudius and grandmother of the emperor Caligula.

Mark Antony and Cleopatra had some sort of marriage ceremony. She gave birth to another son, Ptolemaeus Philadelphos (meaning that during this singular year Mark Antony acquired a daughter by an occidental wife and a son by an oriental wife).
Sallust died.

Mark Antony returned to Alexandria with Cleopatra.

Octavia, Octavian Caesar’s sister, brought to Athens troops, money, and supplies for Mark Antony — but he sent her home without coming to meet her.
Horace’s Satirae I

Long Latin Download Done Into English

44 Caesar, the greatest of the Roman conquerors, after having fought fifty pitched battles, and slain 1,192,000 men, and overturned the liberties of his country, is killed in the senate-house.

35 The battle of Actium fought, in which Mark Antony and Cleopatra are totally defeated by Octavius, nephew to Julius Caesar.

30 Alexandria, in Egypt, is taken by Octavius, upon which Antony and Cleopatra put themselves to death, and Egypt is reduced to a Roman province.

27 Octavius by a decree of the senate, obtains the title of Augustus Caesar, and absolute exemption from the laws, and is properly the first Roman emperor.

8 Rome at this time is fifty miles in circumference, and contains 463,000 men fit to bear arms.

The temple of Janus is shut by Augustus as an emblem of universal peace, and Jesus Christ is born.

A. C.

12 Jesus Christ disputes with the doctors in the temple;
27 ______________ is baptized in the Wilderness by John;
33 ______________ is crucified;

His Resurrection and Ascension.

36 St. Paul converted.
39 St. Matthew writes his Gospel.

Pontius Pilate kills himself.

40 The name of Christians first given at Antioch to the followers of Christ.
43 Claudius Caesar’s expedition into Britain.
44 St. Mark writes his Gospel.
49 London is founded by the Romans; 368, surrounded by ditto with a wall, some parts of which are still observable.

51 Caractacus, the British king, is carried in chains to Rome.

St. Luke writes his Gospel.
Mark Antony succeeded in his military campaign in Armenia, and annexed it to Rome. He then decisively broke off his alliance with Octavian Caesar by staging a “triumph” in Alexandria to celebrate this victory of his and by officially divorcing Octavian’s sister Octavia. He announced that he was dividing much of Rome’s eastern provinces among the children of Cleopatra (Caesarion, and three more whom he had himself since fathered), declaring Octavian to be a usurper of Caesar’s rightful heir Caesarion, his wife’s son by Julius Caesar.

He was flipping Octavian off, right and left. Hey dude, you don’t got the real Caesar moxie, it’s me, I got the real Caesar moxie!

The clock ran out on the 2d 5-year period of the 2d Triumvirate (from which Lepidus had already been ousted) while Octavian Caesar was campaigning in Illyria. Octavian Caesar began making nasty remarks about Mark Antony.
Mark Antony divorced Octavia. There was a “war of words” between him and her brother Octavian Caesar. Octavian Caesar acquired and proclaimed in the Senate of Rome the contents of Mark Antony’s will, which had declared Caesarion as Julius Caesar’s lawful heir. The Senate, alarmed at this evidence of Mark Antony’s preferring the East over the West, his willingness to advance the interests of Cleopatra’s Egypt over those of Rome, declared war on Egypt and assigned Octavian Caesar the title of “Dux” or leader of this war effort. Some of the senators, however, defected to Mark Antony.
September 2: Yet another altercation involving our favorite pushy people, the Romans:

Off Cape Actium on the coast of western Greece, the fleet of Mark Antony was completely defeated by the fleet of Octavian (who had for the 3rd time become a consul of Rome) commanded by Marcus Vispanius Agrippa, after which Anthony fled to Egypt with his ally Cleopatra toward Alexandria.
Octavian would pursue and Antony and Cleopatra would famously commit suicide. Egypt would be made a Roman province. Octavianus Caesar would remain as undisputed master of Rome and its empire, restoring the Pax Romana.2 (“I’m king of the woocorld!“ Hot damn, is he going to have fun now!)

(The TV series “I, Claudius” opens with a bunch of dancers shaking their naked stuff for the benefit of a dinner party being held in celebration of the seventh anniversary of the Battle of Actium in 24 BCE. A cake has been prepared in the shape of Marcus Vispanius Agrippa’s ship. Aristarchus, a Greek orator, performs a “prose hymn” about the victory of dinner guests Augustus and Marcus Vispanius Agrippa over Cleopatra and Marcus Antonius.)

2. You will note that in these records of battles leaving fields littered with corpses, the terms “creating the Pax Romana” and “disrupting the Pax Romana” are terms of art — and are employed arbitrarily. Please don’t try to figure out why sometimes the term “creating” is selected, and sometimes the word “disrupting,” as this won’t get you anywhere at all.
At about this point, when Octavian Caesar dispatched Marcus Valerius Messalla Corvinus to restore the Pax Romana in Aquitania, his friend Albius Tibullus may have accompanied him to Gaul in his campaigns against the Parthians and the Germans.

August 1: Mark Antony’s remaining ships defected to the forces of Octavian, and Alexandria suddenly belonged again to the Roman Empire. At the palace, Mark Antony granted himself the Pax Romana by falling on his sword (in the “Rome” series on HBO, he asks the centurion Lucius Vorenus to hold the sword for him).
August 12: Cleopatra VII, queen of denial, failing to make an acceptable deal with Octavian, used a poisonous snake to follow her husband Mark Antony to the grave. They had sent Caesarion, then 17, from the palace in Alexandria toward the Red Sea port of Berenice, possibly with a plan to escape to India (since Octavian is said to have remarked that two Caesars was one too many, it is possible that he had him killed, but, first in the Asterix comic book and then in the HBO special, with great dramatic interest, the lad is allowed to survive since this makes for so much more pleasant a children’s story). Cleopatra’s three younger children would be taken to Rome and would grow up in the household of Octavia Minor, Octavian’s second eldest sister. Cleopatra’s daughter would marry the king of Numidia and Mauritania, Juba II:

Cleopatra’s sons must somehow have died because had they remained alive they would have been reasonably important — and we have turned up no trace whatever of them.

August 13-15: Egypt was a Roman province. On these three successive days Rome celebrated three separate triumphs (those of Illyria, Actium, and Alexandria), attributing this success to the god Apollo since Octavian’s modesty had no limits.

During the celebration the three orphans of Antony and Cleopatra were paraded draped in gold chains of such weight that not only the 6-year-old Ptolemaeus Philadelphus but also the older twins Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene would turn out to be quite unable to walk. This influx of money and booty brought about a sharp decrease in interest rates which made Octavian exceedingly popular among the people.
Next to his home on the Palatine Hill of Rome, Octavian dedicated a temple to Apollo, to whom he had attributed his military successes in Illyria, off the cape of Actium, and at Alexandria.

The “Julio-Claudian” series of emperors:

Reigned 41 years, from 27 BCE to 14 CE: Octavian (Imperator Caesar Divi Filius Augustus) was born at Rome on September 23, 63 BCE (C. Octavianus); died at Nola in Campania on August 19, 14 CE at age 77 from an illness.

Reigned 23 years, from 14 to 37 CE: Tiberius Caesar Augustus was born at Rome on November 16, 42 BCE; died at Misenum on March 16, 37 CE at age 77 from being smothered with a pillow while on his death bed from a terminal illness.

Reigned 4 years, from 37 to 41 CE: Caligula (Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus) was born at Antium (Anzio) on August 31, 12 CE; died at Rome on January 24, 41 CE at age 19 from assassination.

Reigned 13 years, from 41 to 54 CE: Claudius (Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus) was born at Lugdunum on August 1, 10 BCE; died at Rome on October 13, 54 CE at age 64 from eating deliberately poisoned mushrooms given to him by his wife Agrippina (Nero’s mother).

The last of this line, the emperor Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, reigned 14 years, from 54 to 68 CE. He was born at Antium (Anzio) on December 15, 37 CE; died at Rome on June 9, 68 CE at age 31 from suicide.

The next emperor would be Galba (Servius Galba Imperator Caesar Augustus), one of the military leaders who had revolted against the emperor Nero, who had been born near Tarracina on December 24, 3 BCE and would be assassinated at Rome on January 15, 69 CE at the age of 72 during a rebellion among his rivals (reigned, that is, for less than a year, from 68 into 69 CE).
January 13 and 16: Octavian “handed the Republic back to the people” and in return received the title Augustus and an enormous proconsular province including Spain, Gaul, Syria, and Egypt. He thus came into control of most of the military provinces, and would henceforward maintain his preeminent power. His virtues were commemorated on a golden shield (clipeum virtutis) that was set up in the senate house (Curia Julia) in the Roman Forum. He was definitively numero uno, the man.
Augustus Caesar married his daughter Julia to his sister’s son Marcellus.

During the reign of the emperor Augustus, Vitruvius was being sponsored through his sister Octavia Minor, who would presumably have arranged for him to have a pension. Here is Marcus Vitruvius Pollio presenting his *M. VITRUVII POLLIONIS DE ARCHITECTVRA LIBRI DECEM* (TEN BOOKS ON ARCHITECTURE), written in Latin and Greek, to the emperor Augustus (this woodcut was done in 1684):

It is likely that Book I refers to the campaign of public repairs and improvements led by Marcus Agrippa. Book VIII offers empirical observation of laborer illnesses in the lead foundries of his time and advises that clay pipes and masonry channels be used to conduct drinking water — not lead pipes. Book X describes the construction of the “Archimedes’s screw” device widely used for raising water to irrigate fields and dewater mines.

He was writing in the period during which many of the surviving Roman aqueducts were built, such as those at Segovia and the Pont du Gard, and describes in detail the use of the inverted siphon, including practical problems of the high pressures developed in the pipe at the base of such a siphon. Vitruvius asserts that a structure must exhibit the three qualities *firmitas, utilitas*, and *venustas* (it must be solid and useful, as well as beautiful). Architecture is an imitation of nature — just as birds and bees built their nests, so do humans construct shelters, against the elements, out of natural materials.
The TV series “I, Claudius” opens with a bunch of dancers shaking their naked stuff for the benefit of a dinner party being held in celebration of the 7th anniversary of the Battle of Actium. A cake has been prepared in the shape of Marcus Vispanius Agrippa’s ship. Aristarchus, a Greek orator, performs a “prose hymn” about the virtues of dinner guests Augustus Caesar and Marcus Vispanius Agrippa over Mark Antony and Cleopatra.

June: Augustus Caesar laid aside the Consular office he had held continuously since 31 BCE in order to allow more aristocrats a chance at prestige, receiving in return imperium maius, which gave him authority over all other magistrates and commanders, and tribunicia potestas, which gave him broad legislative authority. On the domestic side, his nephew and son-in-law Marcellus died, so Augustus had Agrippa divorce his wife and marry Julia — she would bear Agrippa three sons, Gaius, Lucius and Postumus, and two daughters, Agrippina and Julia.
Augustus Caesar went on a tour of the East: Athens, Eleusis (where he was initiated into the mysteries), the Peloponnese, Samos, Syria, etc.

Through diplomatic negotiations, Augustus Caesar recovered standards captured by the Parthians in three wars against Rome, and commemorated this event in art and coinage.

October 12: Augustus Caesar’s return to Rome from the East was celebrated with religious vows and a new altar to “Bringing Fortune Back Home,” Fortuna Redux.

Augustus Caesar adopted his grandsons Gaius and Lucius.

Before May 24: Augustus Caesar proclaimed new marriage laws, the lex Iulia de ordinibus maritandis. There was to be no more of this messing around.
May 31-June 3: Augustus Caesar celebrated a new age (*saeculum*) with special sacrifices and games termed *Ludi Saeculares* (such ceremonies had been held at Rome every 100 to 110 years). For this special occasion, Ovid wrote *Ludi Saeculares*.

Rome had relied on an Etruscan time system that counted the days from one market day to the next, which would be on the 9th day following and was referred to of course in Latin as the *nundinae*. Either on this particular occasion, or on some similar occasion, the emperor Augustus decided to match the week that Egypt had been using since it had abandoned its 10-day week before 500BCE, a 7-day week that India had been using since time immemorial, and legitimated this locally with the deity Apollo as the Sun for Sunday, the 1st day of the week, Diana as the Moon for the 2d, Ares for the 3d, Hermes for the 4th, Zeus for the 5th, Aphrodite for the 6th, and Cronos for the 7th. Augustus’s scheme would be endorsed by the emperor Constantine in 321CE and by about the 7th century of our Common Era would be observed not only in Egypt and India but even in China and Japan (the Inca 10-day week, the Aztec 13-day week, and the Maya 20-day week would of course persist until European intrusion would bring the 7-day week to the New World during the 16th Century).

The Emperor Augustus made Lugdunum, at what is now Lyon, the capital city of the three Gauls. Quickly Lugdunum would be becoming, after Rome, the principal city of the Empire. It would be from here that the Romans would venture forth to conquer England and Germany. Most of the Roman emperors would come here for a stay, and particularly Caligula.

Marcus Vispanius Agrippa, having received Tribunician Powers in 18 BCE and *Imperium Maius* in 13 BCE (and thus having become virtually co-emperor with Augustus Caesar) went on campaign in Pannonia and fell ill.

Agrippa died. Augustus Caesar forced his stepson Tiberius to divorce his wife Vipsania, daughter of Marcus Vispanius Agrippa and Marcella, in order to marry Augustus’s daughter Julia, the widow of Marcus Vispanius Agrippa.
March 6: Marcus Aemilius Lepidus died and Augustus Caesar became Pontifex Maximus in his place. By this office he was in charge of Roman religion. He was Papa Augustus, the Pope of Rome, and you could kiss his ring, or perhaps his foot.

(The head of the Roman Catholic religion would not be referred to as Pontifex Maximus until at least three additional centuries had passed, which is to say, at the very earliest the 4th Century of our Common Era.)
November 27: A few months after the death of his friend Maecenas, Horace died in Rome at the age of 57. Since he had no heirs and his friend Maecenas was already deceased, he left his little farm to his friend Augustus Caesar, to be used for imperial needs. (This farm may still be visited.)

January 1: Augustus Caesar presented Gaius Caesar as his heir in public in the Forum. Augustus was designated "pater patriae," Father of His Country.

January 1: Augustus Caesar presented Lucius Caesar as his heir in public in the Forum. Augustus was designated "pater patriae," Father of His Country.

August 1: In Rome, the dedication of the Forum Augustum and the temple of Mars Ultor.

The Emperor Augustus Caesar’s grandson and adopted son Lucius died.
The *lectio Senatus*.

The Emperor Augustus Caesar’s grandson and adopted son Gaius having died, he formally adopted Tiberius and then sent him to Boiohaemum to conquer the west German tribal state of the Marcomanni.

Tiberius adopted an 18-year-old nephew, Germanicus Caesar.

Herod Archelaus was deposed by Augustus Caesar of Rome; Samaria, Judea and Idumea were annexed as the province of Iudaea under direct Roman administration, with its capitol at Caesarea.\(^3\)

The taxing of Caesar Augustus reported in LUKE 2:1sq., which specified that this was “the first census while Quirinius was governor of Syria.” This dovetails nicely with Josephus’s account:

Now Quirinius...arrived in Syria with a small contingent, since he had been sent out by [Augustus] Caesar to govern the people & assess their wealth. Coponius, a cavalry officer, was sent along with him with full authority to govern the Jews. Since Judea had been annexed to Syria, Quirinius also came to assess them [the Judeans] as well and to sell off Archelaus’ estate.

— JEWISH ANTIQUITIES 18.1-2
The year Josephus specified for this taxation, 6 CE, causes problems because it is a decade after the death of Herod the Great, thus disallowing the accuracy of the account of Jesus’s birth given in Matthew. In that year occurred also the rebellion of Judas of Galilee mentioned in Acts 5:37. This is the event that led to the formation of the rebel movement which Josephus styled “the 4th philosophy” (for details see Jewish Antiquities 18.1-23). Again Luke has its chronology and details confused, for it specifically identifies Judas’s revolt as “after” Theudas, when really it had been about a generation earlier. Moreover, Josephus does not support Luke’s claim that Judas the Galilean “also perished,” if by this it meant “was executed” like Theudas. Luke may have confused Judas with his sons James (Ya’akov) and Simon (Shim’on), who were executed by the procurator Tiberius Alexander circa 48 CE. Josephus described the latter event in the following manner:

And in addition, James & Simon the sons of Judah the Galilean, who as I pointed out in a previous book had led the people to revolt against the Romans when Quirinius came to assess the property of the Jews, were now brought up and crucified by order of [the Roman procurator Tiberius] Alexander.

— Jewish Antiquities 20.102

3. Roman Emperor Gaius Augustus Octavianus Caesar (43 BCE-14 CE) conducted a joint Judaism and Samaritan hearing. The Samaritans accused Archelaus (4 BCE - 6 CE) Tetrarch of Judaea and Sumeria, the son of King Herod (40-4 BCE) of cruelty toward the people. Both groups who seldom joined forces demanded the abolition of the monarchy. It is noteworthy that the Zealot sect of Galilee is extremely nationalistic in their beliefs. Caesar Augustus as a result banished Archelaus (4 BCE - 6 CE) the son of Herod (40-4 BCE) to Vienna, a city in Gaul (France) and his property is transferred to Caesar’s treasury. The Essene Judaism sect member Simon had predicted Archelaus fall from power. The Essene is known to be schooled as scribes, seers and prophets. Coponius (6-9 CE) is appointed Roman Prefect of Judaea in Palaestina that is now added to the Province of Syria. Cyrenius a Roman senator is appointed judge of Syria. Judaea effectively became a part of a Roman Province rather than a territory of Syria. During his reign a Galilean named Judas of Gama a Sophist (Zealot teacher, rabbi, or philosophic teacher) incited a revolt against the Roman census being conducted by Quirinius Governor of Syria. Sadduc a Pharisee joined the Judas Zealot movement. Judas and Zaddok (scholar of the school of Shammai) of the Pharisee Judaism sect inflamed the anger of the people against Rome. Joezer the high priest, son of Boethus calmed the popular feelings and prevented revolution during the Coponius reign. At this time the Pharisees Judaism sect do not take away the freedom from men of acting as they see fit but this will shortly change. The Sadducees Judaism sect at this time is not liked by the multitude. The Essenes Judaism sect is excluded from the common court of the temple, are addicted to virtue and righteousness. These Essenes sect share everything in common. The Judaism Zealot Sects or followers of Judas the Galilean have an inviolable attachment to Judaism liberty and they say that God is to be their only Ruler and Lord. The Zealots do not fear death.
Or, all this confusion may be merely semantics. Quirinius was in fact in the area during the reign of Herod, engaged in the war against the Homanadenses. During that period he would have set up a seat of government and as a consul he would have outranked Saturninus. In 6 CE Quirinius was sent to Syria as legate along with Coponius who would be the first prefect of Judea and a predecessor of Pontius Pilatus. The registration and census of 6 CE is too late to be connected with the birth of Jesus. Additionally, the registration of 6 CE did not include the Galilee. This has long been a stumbling block in the determination of the date of Jesus’ birth and many scholars merely assumed that Luke had made a mistake. In 1912, however, the discovery by W. M. Ramsey of a fragmentary inscription at Antioch of Pisidia arguably established Quirinius was in Syria on a previous occasion. His role was more military to lead a campaign against the Homanadenses, a tribe in the Taurus Mountains. This is confirmed by Tacitus. This means that Quirinius would have established a seat of government in Syria, including Palestine, from the years 10 to 7 BCE. In this position he would have been responsible for the census mentioned by Luke. This census of 7 BCE would therefore have been the “first” census taken when Cyrenius was governor (Luke 2:2) and the historically documented census of 6/7 CE was really the second. There is further evidence of this first census of 7 BCE in the writings of Tertullian who records the census “taken in Judea by Sentius Saturninus.” C. Sentius Saturninus was Legate of Syria from 9 to 6 BCE. Another inscription, the Lapis Tiburtinus, was found in 1764 near Tivoli (Tibur). Composed after 14 CE, the inscription names an unknown personage who was legate of Syria twice. The man is described as having been victorious in war. There is considerable dissension among scholars as to whether the unnamed person is Quirinius.

(PVBLIVS SVLPICIVS PVBLII FILIVS QVIRINIVS CONSVL (...) PRAETOR
PROCONSVL CRETAM ET CYRENEAS PROVINCIAM OPTINVIT LEGATVS PRO
PRAETORE DIVI AVGVSTI SYRIAM ET PHOENICIAM OPTINVENS BELLVM GESSIS
CVM GENTE HOMONADENSIVM QVAE INTERFECERAT AMYNTAM REGEM QVA REDACTA
IN POTESVMT IMPERATORIS CAESARIS AVGVSTI AVGVSTI POPVLIQVE ROMANI SENATVS
DIS IMMORTALIBVS SVPPPLICATIONES BIVAS OB RES PROSPERE AB EO GESTAS
ET IPSI ORNAMENTA TRIVMPHALIA DECEVIT PRO CONSVL ASIAM PROVINCIAM
OPTINVIT LEGATVS PRO PRAETORE DIVI AVGVSTI ITERVM SYRIAM ET
PHOENICEN OPTENVIT

(Roughly, Publius Sulpicius son of Publius Quirinius the Consul... made Praetor/Proconsul of the Cretan and Cyreneas province. Made Praetor/Legate Syria and Phoenicia by the Divine Augustus to wage war against the Homonadenses who had cut off the King of Amyntas from Loyal service to Caesar for which Augustus and the Senate and People of Rome gave him a triumph. The Divine Augustus made him Consul for the Province of Asia and Praetor/Legate for Syria and Phoenicia.)

Quirinius obtained his triumph for his victory on the Homonadians [Homonadenses]. Legate in Syria in 751 [3 BCE] and 759 AUC [6 BCE]. He was Consul in 742 AUC [11 BCE].) This would make it appear that LUKE confuses the date of the Triumph of Quirinius with the date of the Census of Quirinius.

Julia (the Younger) was banished.

4. Josephus the historian assigns Judas of Gama (Galilee) a Sophist and Zaddok the Pharisee as being the real founders of the Zealot sect. The Zealot sect inaugurated the eschatological reign of the Kingdom of Heaven for God’s elected people here and now. The Zealots aligned with most of the philosophies of the Pharisees but they are messianic and a revolutionary movement. The Jerusalem Zealots wanted to democratize the high priesthood and are not interested in the messianic expectations. The Galilean Zealots however wanted real far-reaching social change.
The Emperor Augustus Caesar obtained the enactment of the Papia/Poppaean Laws, to promote large families and increase the population. (Ironically, the two consuls these fecundative laws were named after happened to have been themselves bachelors!)

(In the 3d episode of the TV series “I, Claudius,” Augustus summons some Romans of the Noble Order of Knights and lines them up in his courtyard to berate them seriously about the head and shoulders for their disinclination to get married and make Roman babies. Enter Clau-Clau-Claudius, and Augustus uses the twitching child as his example of the product of a proper Roman union. Livia remarks about Claudius that “He ought to have been exposed at birth ... he twitches, he stutters, he limps, he’s an embarrassment to everyone and even his own mother can’t stand him.”)

Summer: P. Quinctilius Varus and his three legions were massacred by the Germans in the Teutoburger Wald; panic ensued in Italy; Augustus Caesar, distraught, began his final decline.
Germanicus Caesar became consul to the Emperor Augustus Caesar.

From about this point until 15 CE, Annius Rufus would be the Roman Prefect of Iudaea (that is, of Samaria, Judea, and Idumea).

The Chinese Emperor Wang Mang repealed his reforms, which had created widespread protest. Maybe freeing all slaves had not been such a hot idea, after all.

44 Caesar, the greatest of the Roman conquerors, after having fought fifty pitched battles, and slain 1,192,000 men, and overturned the liberties of his country, is killed in the senate-house.
35 The battle of Actium fought, in which Mark Antony and Cleopatra are totally defeated by Octavius, nephew to Julius Caesar.
30 Alexandria, in Egypt, is taken by Octavius, upon which Antony and Cleopatra put themselves to death, and Egypt is reduced to a Roman province.
27 Octavius by a decree of the senate, obtains the title of Augustus Caesar, and absolute exemption from the laws, and is properly the first Roman emperor.
8 Rome at this time is fifty miles in circumference, and contains 463,000 men fit to bear arms.
The temple of Janus is shut by Augustus as an emblem of universal peace, and JESUS CHRIST is born.

A. C.
12 JESUS CHRIST disputes with the doctors in the temple;
27 __________ is baptized in the Wilderness by John;
33 __________ is crucified;
His Resurrection and Ascension.
36 St. Paul converted.
39 St. Matthew writes his Gospel.
Pontius Pilate kills himself.
40 The name of Christians first given at Antioch to the followers of Christ.
43 Claudius Caesar’s expedition into Britain.
44 St. Mark writes his Gospel.
49 London is founded by the Romans; 368, surrounded by ditto with a wall, some parts of which are still observable.
51 Caractacus, the British king, is carried in chains to Rome.
St. Luke writes his Gospel.
Germanicus Caesar was given command of eight Roman legions. Tiberius was given *imperium maius* equal with that of the Emperor Augustus Caesar. His mother Livia Drusilla, the most powerful woman in the Roman Empire, would change her name to Julia Augusta as part of an unsuccessful attempt to take control of the government.

April 3: Augustus Caesar wrote his will.
August 19: After Tiberius had started out for Illyricum, he was recalled because Augustus Caesar was ill. On this day the Emperor died at Nola in Campania, having deposited his last will and testament, and an account of accomplishments, with the Vestal Virgins. This *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* is carved on bronze pillars in front of his mausoleum, in Rome. Tiberius became Emperor (to 37 CE). Germanicus Caesar would quell a mutiny among the legions.

This coin of Livia Drusilla, the most powerful woman in the Roman Empire, was struck during or after this year. After her son Tiberius succeeded Augustus Caesar as emperor she changed her name to Julia Augusta, and attempted unsuccessfully to take control of the government.
Aelius Gallus, the Egyptian prefect for Augustus Caesar’s Roman empire, went off on an ill-fated expedition to conquer the spice kingdoms of South Arabia. It would be quite a while yet, before the masonry Colosseum would be erected in the center of Rome. In this period, in the collapse of the immense wooden amphitheater that had been erected by Titus Statilius in 29 CE, some 20,000-50,000 spectators were crushed.

The earliest known use of the term “fuck” in written English\(^5\) predates the 16th Century and is from a curious little piece entitled “Flen flyys” composed in a mixture of Latin and English:

\[
\text{Non sunt in celi quia fuccant uuiuys of heli.} \\
\text{[They are not in heaven because they fuck the wives of Ely.]} \\
\]

This word *fuccant* is not Latin but pseudo-Latin and in the manuscript is written down as a cipher (the actual holographic inscription “gxddbov xxkxt pg ifmk” is readily decoded because each character merely represents the character preceding it in the alphabet), so whoever created this curious little piece about the friars of Cambridge, England knew that not only were these guys being naughty friars in fucking the wives of the town of Ely (a nearby town), but also that he was himself being the naughty one simply by writing such a thing down on paper.

\(^5\) You will note the careful limitations built into such a construction. Obviously, this is limited to what we culturally describe as “literature,” since our non-literature as found on the walls of public toilets has always been replete with references to all the bodily functions. Obviously, also, this is limited to languages resembling English, since the Emperor Augustus Caesar is suspected of having been guilty in his youth of repeated use of the proper Latin verb for fucking, *futuo*, in a quasi-poetic epigram as of 41 BCE:

\[
\text{Quod futuit Glaphyran Antonius, hanc mihi poenam} \\
\text{Fulvia constituit, se quoque uti futuam.} \\
\text{Fulviam ego ut futuam? quid si me Manius oret} \\
\text{pedicem? faciam? non, puto, si sapiam.} \\
\text{“aut futue aut pugnemus” ait. quid quod mihi vita} \\
\text{carior est ipsa mentula? signa canant!} \\
\]
During this year William Dunbar prepared a nuptial song, “The Thrissill and the Rois,” in celebration of the wedding of King James IV of Scotland with Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII.

There is a literary appearance of the term *fukkit* in a language resembling English, in Dunbar’s poem that begins “In secreit place...” that presumably was composed by this year at the latest (since in 1504 he would take holy orders). The other early recorded uses of the word “fuck” are also by Scottish authors — possibly in its day this reference was hardly more questionable than Chaucer’s “swive.”6 Beginning with a “y” character that looks sorta like a backward script numeral three, Line 13 of Dunbar’s poem reads as follows:

[Y]it be his feiris he wald haif fukkit:
In the notes this line translates out more or less as “were this per his longing, he would be fucking her.”
The rhyme scheme is *croppit / bedroppit / gukkit / chukkit / ourgane / fukkit / ane*:

- **croppit**, *kemd and* = combed and trimmed
- **bedroppit** = dewed
- **gukkit**, *peirt and* = impulsive and foolish behavior he chukkit = he diddled her
- **ourgane**, *with the glaikkis he wer* = with sexual desire he was overcome
- **fukkit**, *he wald haif* = he would be in sexual congress
- **ane**, *my bony* = my bonny one

---

Here in full are the first two stanzas of the poem:

In secret place this hinder nycht
I hard ane bern say till a bricht:
My hunny, my houp, my hairt, my heill,
I haif bene lang [y]our lufar leill
And can of [y]ow gett confort none:
How lang will [y]e with denger deill?
[Y]e brek my hart, my bony ane.

His bony berd wes kemd and croppit
Bot all with kaill it wes bedroppit
And he wes townsyche, peirt and gukkit.
He clappit fast, he kist, he chukkit
As with the glaikkis he wer ourgane--
[Y]it be his feiris he wald haif fukkit:
[Y]e brek my hairt, my bony ane.

As the poem continues, the town lad’s need is never satisfied by the country maid, so the deployment of “fukkit” is in regard to intent rather than accomplishment. –But now we know that Thoreau inherited his randy sense of humor from his mom’s side of the family!

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“It’s all now you see. Yesterday won’t be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago.”

– Remark by character “Garin Stevens” in William Faulkner’s INTRUDER IN THE DUST
Prepared: December 7, 2013
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.
Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology—but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.
Popular etymologies agree, unfortunately incorrectly, that this is an acronym meaning either Fornication Under Consent of the King or For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge. The latter usually accompanying a story about how medieval prisoners were forced to wear this word on their clothing. Deriving the etymology of this word is difficult, as it has been under a taboo for most of its existence and citations are rare. The earliest known use, according to American Heritage and Lighter, predates 1500 and is from a poem written in a mix of Latin and English and entitled “Flen flyys.” The relevant line reads: “Non sunt in celi quia fuccant uuiuys of heli.” Translated: “They [the monks] are not in heaven because they fuck the wives of Ely [a town near Cambridge].”

Fuccant is a pseudo-Latin word and in the original it is written in cipher to further disguise it.

Ayto mentions the word’s use in 1278 as a personal name, John le Fucker, but fails to provide a citation. The earliest usage cite in the OED2 dates from 1503 and is in the form ‘fukkit.’ The earliest cite of the current spelling is from 1535.

The word was not in common (published) use prior to the 1960s. Shakespeare did not use it, although he did hint at it for comic effect. In Merry Wives of Windsor (IV.i) he gives us the pun “focative case.” In Henry V (IV.iv), the character Pistol threatens to “firk” a French soldier, a word meaning “to strike,” but commonly used as an Elizabethan euphemism for fuck. In the same play (III.iv), Princess Katherine confuses the English words “foot” and “gown” for the French “foutre” and “coun” (fuck and cunt, respectively) with comic results. Other poets did use the word, although it was far from common. Robert Burns, for example, used it in an unpublished manuscript.

The taboo was so strong that for 170 years, from 1795 to 1965, fuck did not appear in a single dictionary of the English language. In 1948, the publishers of The Naked and the Dead persuaded Norman Mailer to use the euphemism “fug” instead, resulting in Dorothy Parker’s comment upon meeting Mailer: “So you’re the man who can’t spell fuck.”

The root is undoubtedly Germanic, as it has cognates in other Northern European languages: Middle Dutch fokken meaning to thrust, to copulate with; dialectical Norwegian fukka meaning to copulate; and dialectical Swedish focka meaning to strike, push, copulate, and fock meaning penis. Both French and Italian have similar words, foutre and fottere respectively. These derive from the Latin futuere.

While these cognates exist, they are probably not the source of fuck, rather they probably come from a common root. Most of the
early known usages of the English word come from Scotland, leading some scholars to believe that the word comes from Scandinavian sources. Others disagree, believing that the number or northern cites reflects that the taboo was weaker in Scotland and the north, resulting in more surviving usages. The fact that there are citations, albeit fewer of them, from southern England dating from the same period seems to bear out this latter theory.
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"Non sunt in celi quia fuccant uuiuys of heli."

Translated:

“They [the monks] are not in heaven because they fuck the wives of Ely [a town near Cambridge].”

Fuccant is a pseudo-Latin word and in the original it is written in cipher to further disguise it.

"Flen flyys" written sometime before 1500, is in code, illustrating its offensive clout even then. The line that contains ‘fuck’ reads "Non sunt in coeli, quia gxddbov xxxxt pg ifmk."

The Latin words “Non sunt in coeli, quia” mean “they [the friars] are not in heaven, since.” The code “gxddbov xxxxt pg ifmk” is easily broken by simply writing the preceding letter in the alphabet. This yields (in Latin) "fvccant [a fake Latin form] vvivys of heli." The whole thus reads in translation: “They are not in heaven because they fuck wives of Ely [a town near Cambridge].”
In such a context it might be appropriate to quote Isaac Asimov, a lifelong lover of the lubricious limerick:

It appears that a young couple were trying to outdo each other in coming up with dirty limericks. However, they had a problem: dirty words embarrassed them. Since they felt tender toward each other, they had reason to be concerned that certain types of language might wound tender eyes. One day Sally runs over to Jim’s apartment and blurts out breathlessly, “Wow, have I found a super dirty limerick! It’s just incredibly full of, you know, language.” And Jim goes, “OK, tell it to me.” Sally blushes: “I can’t.” So Jim goes, “Tell you what. Whenever you come to a dirty word, just say “ta-da” and I’ll just try to fill it in and that way neither of us will be embarrassed.” “Great,” says Sally, “here goes.::

Ta-da, ta-da-da, ta-da-dah,
Ta-da, ta-da-da, ta-da-dah,
Ta-da, ta-da-dah,
Ta-da, ta-da-dah,
Presumably, by the time Fulvia died in 40 BCE, Octavian had written the six lines mentioning her that have been preserved for us by Martial, a little poem that presents us with four uses of the Latin verb futuo, to fuck. It is to be noted that one of these lines presents the verb as coming from the mouth of Fulvia, a woman — which must have made this little poem even more problematic:

Quod futuit Glaphyran Antonius, hanc mihi poenam
Fulvia constituit, se quoque uti futuam.
Fulviam ego ut futuam? quid si me Manius oret
pedicum? faciam? non, puto, si sapiam.
"aut futue aut pugnemus" ait. quid quod mihi vita
carior est ipsa mentula? signa canant!

A literal translation, devoid of any attempt at poetry, would be as follows: "Because Antony is fucking Glaphyra, Fulvia decrees the following penalty for me, that I should fuck her too. I fuck Fulvia? What if Manius begged me to bugger him? Should I do it? Not, I think, if I had any sense. ‘Either fuck or fight,’ she says. What of the fact that my penis is dearer to me than life itself? Let the trumpets sound!"

I have no knowledge of any poetic use of the term predating the 16th Century in any language approximating English. I had thought that the first use of the word “fuck” in poetry in any language approximating English occurred in a poem dating to 1503 or earlier, by Henry David Thoreau’s remote ancestor William Dunbar. If you do establish some use prior to William Dunbar’s of 1503 or thereabouts, please do let me know!
That first literary appearance of the term in any language approximating English is in Dunbar’s poem that begins “In secreit place....,” that presumably was composed by that year at the latest since by 1504 he would have taken holy orders. The other early recorded uses of the word are also by Scots authors – possibly in its day this reference was hardly more questionable than Chaucer’s “swive.” Beginning with a “y” character that looks sorta like a backward script numeral three, Line 13 reads as follows:

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Here in full are the first two stanzas of the poem:
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And can of [y]ow gett confort nane;
How lang will [y]e with denger deill?
[Y]e brek my hart, my bony ane.

His bony berd wes kemd and croppit
Bot all with kaill it wes bedroppit
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