

# Augustus (63 BC - 14 AD)

- 63BC:** Octavian born September 23rd at Rome to Gaius Octavius and Atia, niece of Julius Caesar.
- 60:** First Triumvirate of Pompey, Crassus and Caesar.
- 53:** Crassus defeated and killed by the Parthians at Carrhae.
- 49:** Caesar crosses the Rubicon in Italy, precipitating civil war; Pompey and the Senate flee to Greece.
- 48:** Battle of Pharsalus: Caesar victorious; Pompey murdered in Egypt.
- 45:** Octavian campaigns (at 17) in Spain with Julius Caesar: Battle of Munda.
- 44:** Assassination of Caesar; Caesar's will names Octavian as principal heir and adopted son.
- 43:** October: Octavian meets with Antony and Lepidus near Bononia and form the Second Triumvirate (*triumviri*, or "three men"). Enemies of the *triumviri* "proscribed" (killed, and their property confiscated), including Cicero.
- 42:** Julius Caesar is proclaimed a god, thus making Octavian *divi filius* ("son of the god"). Antony & Octavian avenge Caesar's assassination at the Battle of Philippi.
- 40:** Treaty of Brundisium among the *triumviri*: Octavian gets the West, Antony the East, Lepidus Africa. Antony marries Octavian's sister Octavia.
- 34:** Antony breaks with Rome and Octavian for good; divorces Octavian's sister Octavia; divides eastern empire among Cleopatra's children; declares Octavian a usurper of Caesar's rightful heir, Caesarion, son of Caesar and Cleopatra.
- 31:** Octavian (now consul for the third time) and Agrippa are victorious over Antony and Cleopatra at **Actium**.
- 30:** Octavian takes Alexandria; Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide .
- 29:** Octavian celebrates a triple triumph at Rome on three successive days and attributes the success to Apollo.
- 27:** Octavian "hands the Republic back to the people" \_and in return receives the title Augustus, a proconsular province including Spain, Gaul, Syria and Egypt, and *imperium* (the power to command an army) for ten years. His virtues are commemorated on a golden shield in the Senate house in the Roman Forum.
- 23:** Augustus lays aside the consulship he has held continuously since 31; receives *maius imperium*, giving him authority over all other magistrates and commanders, and *tribunicia potestas*, giving him legislative authority. Augustus nearly dies. Augustus' nephew/son-in-law Marcellus dies. Augustus makes Agrippa divorce his wife and marry Augustus' widowed daughter Julia, who bears him three sons – Gaius, Lucius and Postumus – and two daughters – Agrippina and Julia.

- 20:** Augustus recovers standards captured by the Parthians in three wars against Rome; commemorates this event in art (see *Prima Porta*) and coinage.
- 18:** Augustus revises the Senate; Agrippa receives *tribunicia potestas* and *maius imperium* for five years in 13. Augustus authorizes legislation regulating adultery and marriage.
- 17:** Augustus adopts his grandsons Gaius and Lucius, and celebrates a new age (*saeculum*) with special sacrifices and games called the *Ludi Saeculares* (typically held every 100 to 110 years).
- 12:** Agrippa dies; Augustus forces his stepson Tiberius to divorce his wife and marry Augustus' twice-widowed daughter Julia (1st Marcellus, then Agrippa). Lepidus dies; Augustus becomes *pontifex maximus*, now oversees Roman religion.
- 9:** Dedication of *Ara Pacis* (Altar of Peace) in commemoration of Augustus' return from campaigns in Spain and Gaul.
- 8:** Senate renames *Sextilis*, the sixth month, in honor of Augustus.
- 2:** Augustus named *pater patriae* ("father of his country"). Dedication of Forum of Augustus and Temple of Mars Ultor. Augustus exiles his daughter Julia to the island of Pandateria for licentious behavior.

## **YEAR ZERO**

- 4 AD:** Augustus revises the Senate; Augustus adopts Tiberius who adopts Germanicus
- 9:** Commander of the army on the frontier, Publius Quinctilius Varus, together with three legions are massacred by the Germans in the Teutoburger forest; panic ensues in Italy; Augustus, distraught, begins his final decline.
- 13:** Augustus writes his will; Tiberius receives *maius imperium* and *tribunicia potestas*.
- 14:** Augustus dies, having deposited his last will and testament, and account of accomplishments (*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*) with the Vestal Virgins. Tiberius succeeds to the throne.