

# Classical to the Core

## Latin as the Lynchpin to the Goals of the Standards

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*Ivy J. Livingston (Harvard University)*

Thursday, November 13, 14

1

While we note how the study of the Classics can support Common Core standards, the approaches and activities can, of course, be used in any Latin classroom.

# Nomina propria Romanorum

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And what was one of the classic ways in which Romans publicly differentiated themselves from other nationalities? By their naming conventions.

## II. PROPER NAMES.

**373.** 1. The name of a Roman citizen regularly consisted of three parts: the *praenōmen* (or given name), the *nōmen* (name of the *gens* or clan), and the *cognōmen* (family name). Such a typical name is exemplified by **Mārcus Tullius Cicerō**, in which **Mārcus** is the *praenōmen*, **Tullius** the *nōmen*, and **Cicerō** the *cognōmen*. Sometimes a second *cognōmen* (in later Latin called an *agnōmen*) is added—especially in honor of military achievements; as,—

**Gāius Cornēlius Scīpiō Africānus.**

### 2. ABBREVIATIONS OF PROPER NAMES.

A. = Aulus.	Mam. = Māmercus.
App. = Appius.	N. = Numerius.
C. = Gāius.	P. = Pūblius.
Cn. = Gnaeus.	Q. = Quīntus.
D. = Decimus.	Sex. = Sextus.
K. = Kaesō.	Ser. = Servius.
L. = Lūcius.	Sp. = Spurius.
M. = Mārcus.	T. = Titus.
M'. = Mānius.	Ti. = Tiberius.

As we mentioned last year, so often cultural content is presented to students in almost exclusively English subsections of their textbook. Again we think this can be learned directly from original sources with relatively little scaffolding and minimal English.

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## Bennett's Grammar

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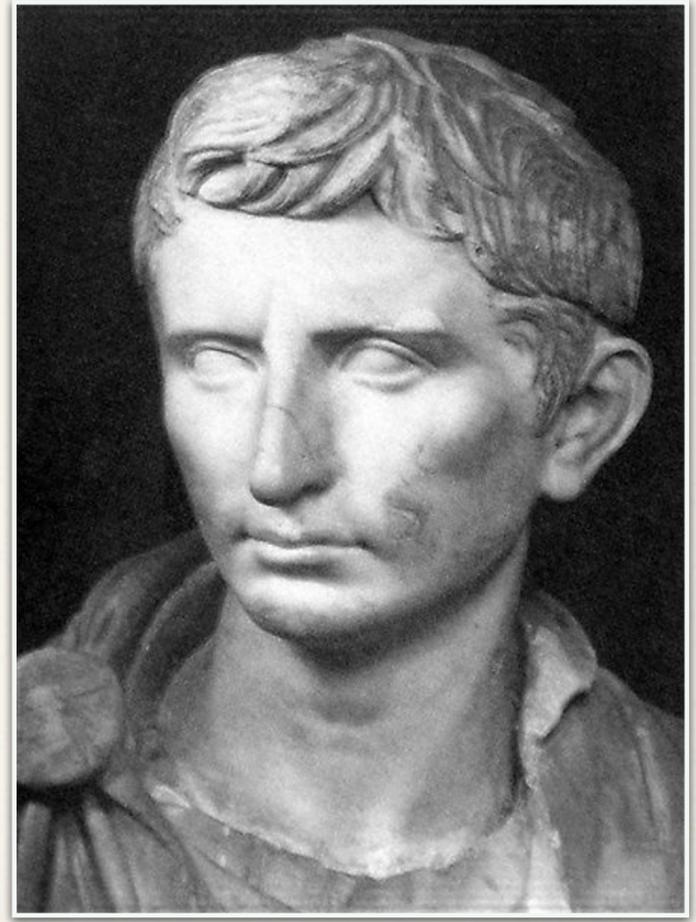
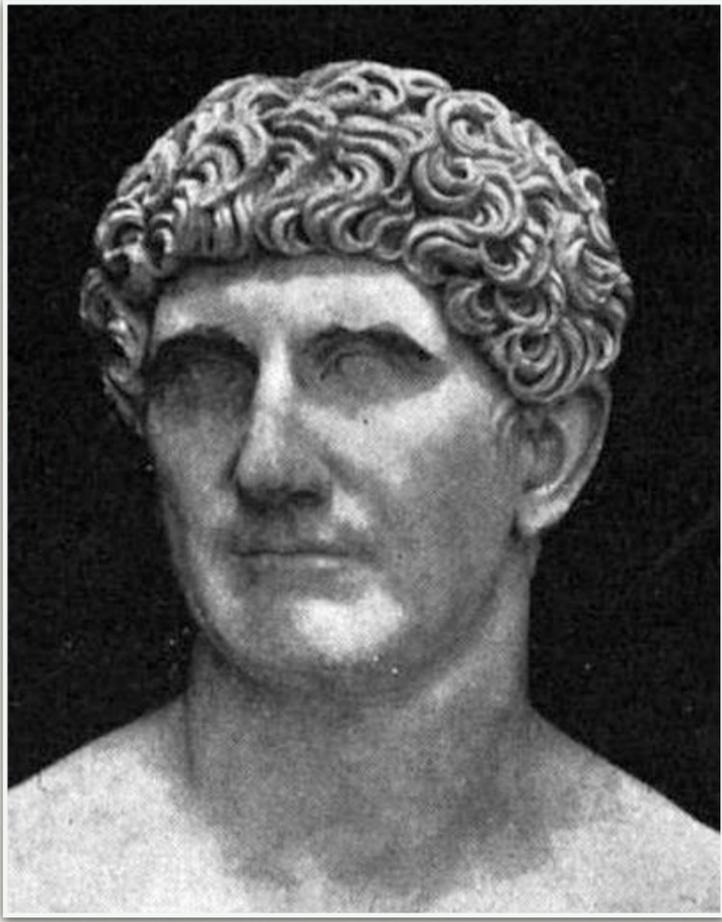
## Warm-up questions

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- ❖ *Quot nomina tibi sunt?*
- ❖ Where does your name come from?
- ❖ Does anyone in your family share name(s) with you?
- ❖ *Quid significat nomen tuum?*

# Nomina virorum

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Thursday, November 13, 14

5

Everything we are going to talk about first, applies only to freeborn Roman citizen males, since naming conventions for slaves, former slaves (freedmen), and women of any status are different.

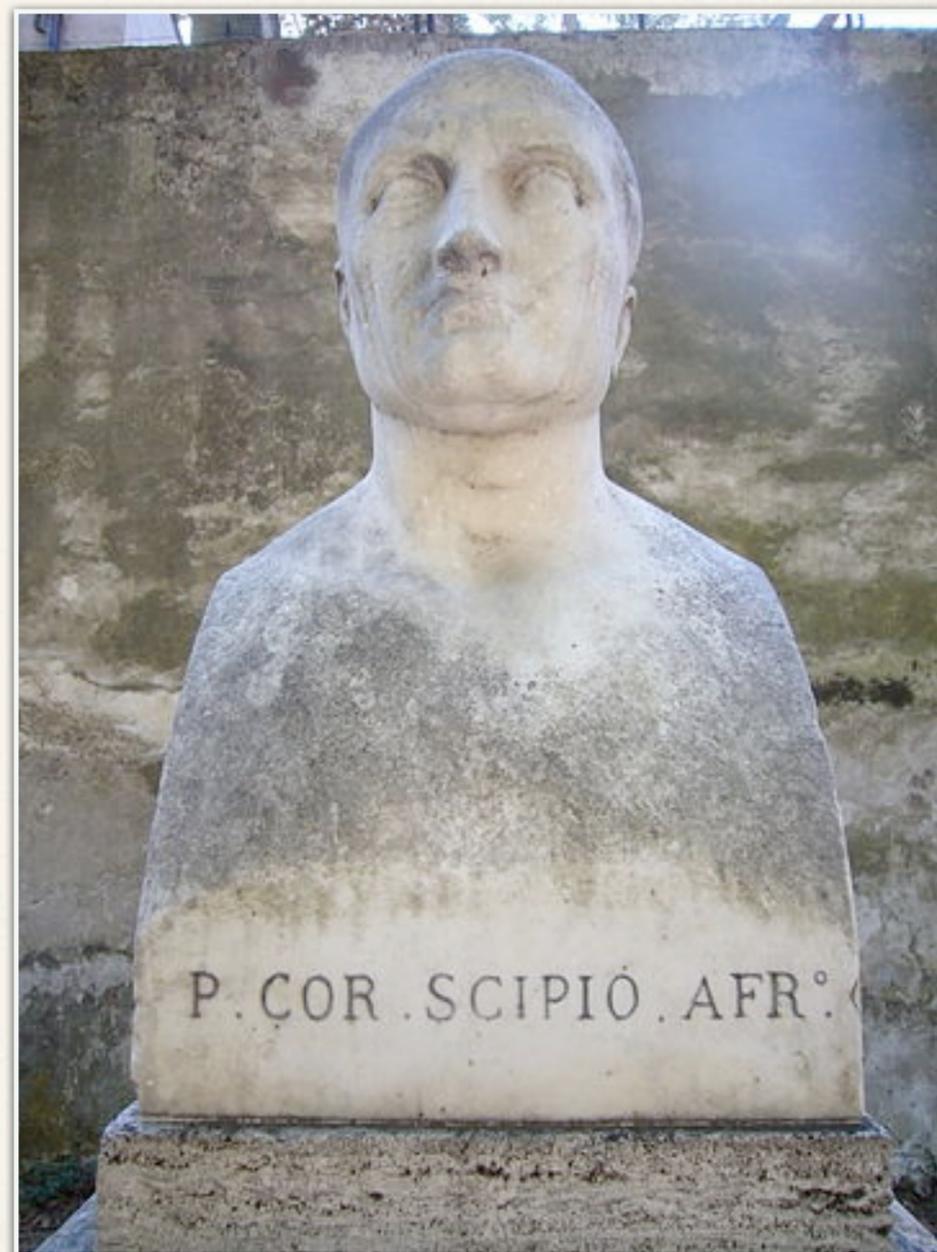
# RH.6-8.9

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Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

nomina ... propria hominum ...  
in species quattuor dividuntur,  
praenomen nomen cognomen  
agnomen, ut Publius Cornelius  
Scipio Africanus.

Charisius *De nomine* 193



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Thursday, November 13, 14

7

One such is the 4th-century grammarian Charisius.

This passage is mostly nominatives (you can even ellipsis or gloss hominum if you want)  
Look for cognate words like species, divid-untur, propria (cf. appropriate as in proper).  
Compare quattuor to “quarter” or “quad.”

[Note how the name is abbreviated on the bust (which may not be ancient).]

nomina ... propria hominum  
... in species quattuor  
dividuntur, praenomen  
nomen cognomen agnomen,  
ut Publius Cornelius Scipio  
Africanus.

With all that knowledge, let the students put together a translation.

Look at the position of the adjectives in relation to the nouns.

Note how ideas that are conveyed by just one word in Latin may need more than one word in English, as in "are divided".

[Reading a language is not just a matter of substituting an English word for a Latin word.]

Note how the four types of name share the common base "nomen." Compare one nomen, but four nomina.

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Africanus.

n\_m\_ ... propr\_ hom\_\*  
... in species qua\_t\_r  
divid\_

\*Think *homo sapiens*

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Africanus.

names proper of men  
into types four  
are divided, praenomen  
nomen cognomen agnomen,  
like Publius Cornelius Scipio  
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praenomen nomen cognomen agnomen, ut Puplius Cornelius  
Scipio Africanus.

Charisius

propria hominum nomina in quattuor species dividuntur,  
praenomen nomen cognomen agnomen: praenomen, ut ...  
Publius, nomen Cornelius, cognomen Scipio, agnomen  
Africanus.

ps.-Probus

If we compare a passage by another Roman grammarian and use what we learned from the first passage, we can almost certainly understand the new one.

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quattuor species dividuntur,  
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cognomen agnomen:  
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nomen [like] Cornelius,  
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Having pointed out the noun–adjective word order in the first passage, here’s a perfect example of the flexible word order of an inflected language (which does not preclude “typical word order”).

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**praenomen** ... est quod nomini praeponitur, ut Publius,

**nomen** quod familiae originem declarat, ut Cornelius,

**cognomen** quod nomini subiungitur, ut Scipio,

**agnomen** quod extrinsecus adici solet, ut Africanus.

Charisius

# praenomen ... est quod nomini praeponitur

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[praenomina] notantur vel singulis literis vel binis vel ternis.

*Priscian Institutes, De nomine 2.58*



Because we keep seeing these passive forms in clear contexts, they shouldn't present too much of a barrier even for first-year students.

“singulis literis” should be self-evident and with that knowledge, it's not much of a stretch to figure out “binis” and “ternis.”

We should know who this is [See ACTFL 2013 pt 1] and hence what the M stands for, but how do we know it isn't any other name beginning with M? And in what circumstances would two or three letters be used?

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M ANTONIVS  
COS DESIG  
ITER ET TERT

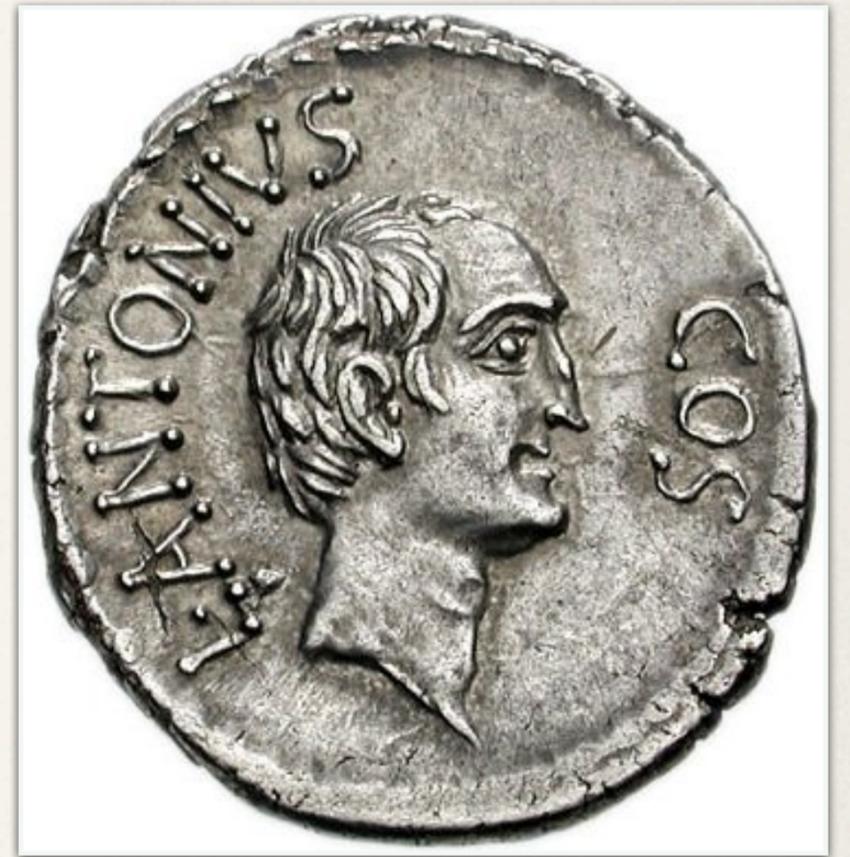
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... singulis, quando a vocali incipit  
praenomen, ut A. Aulus,  
vel ab una consonante, ut P. Publius,  
T. Titus ...

*Priscian Institutes, De nomine 2.58*



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The ancient sources tell us.  
Students may be able to guess what L stands for, given all the examples so far end in -us.  
Students will probably ask what the "COS" is and we will get to that soon.

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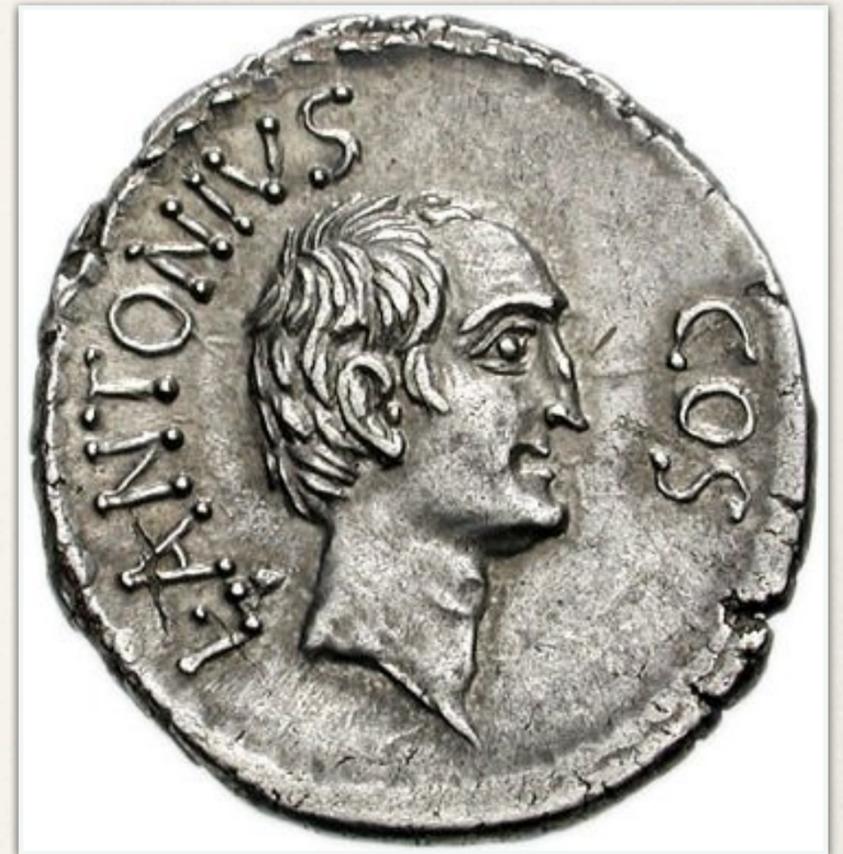
How do we know the pronunciation of C was with a hard K sound?  
Cf. transliteration of Lucius Flavius as Loukios Phlaouios (which also tells us about  
pronunciation of V as W).

Here we have just the office of consul abbreviated as COS.  
Abbreviations aren't limited to names, esp. common in the limited confines of coins.  
The abbreviation of "co(n)sul" without n probably says something about the actual  
pronunciation.

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duabus consonantibus incipit,  
ut Cn. Gnaeus, Sp. Spurius ...

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CN DOMIT  
NERO IMP PA



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tribus [literis], quando a consonante incipit prima syllaba et in consonantem desinit, si tamen alia quoque praenomina ab eisdem incipiunt consonantibus. idque fit differentiae causa, ut Sex. Sextus, Ser. Sergius, Tul. Tullius, ne, si primam solam consonantem scribamus, T. Titum et S. Sestium significare putetur. unde in Marco M. solam scribimus, quamvis a consonante incipit syllaba et in consonantem desinit, quia nullus error sit.

*Priscian Institutes, De nomine 2.58*

M. VERRII FLACCI  
QVÆ EXTANT.  
ET  
SEX. POMPEI  
FESTI DE VERBORVM  
SIGNIFICATIONE,  
LIBRI XX.

Cum vetusto Bibliothecę Farnesianę exemplari  
Romę nuper edito, collati: ex quo lacunę  
pene omnes sunt suppletę.

*In eos libros Ant. Augustini annotationes, ex editione Veneta.  
Ios. Scaligeri Castigationes recognite, ex Parisiensi.  
Ful. Vrsini notę, ex Romana.*

Accesserunt nunc denique doctissimorum virorum  
Notę ex eorum scriptis hinc inde collectę.



PARISIIS,  
Apud Hieronymum de Marnef, & Viduam Gulielmę  
Caullat, sub Pelicano, monte D. Hilarij.

M. D. XXCIII.  
CVM PRIVILEGIO REGIS.

The explanation of the three-letter-abbreviations is more involved, but just by looking at the example names, students may be able to formulate the rule for themselves and you can confirm the hypothesis by translating the text for them.

# Initials

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- ❖ Appius
- ❖ Decimus
- ❖ Gaius
- ❖ Lucius
- ❖ Quintus
- ❖ Tiberius



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Here's a little quiz you can do afterwards.

It can also be fun to see whether students come up with the question and/or supply the answer as to why there was no ambiguity among the initials, i.e., why A. could only be Aulus, whereas an initial A. for us could be Allen, Andrew, Anthony, etc.

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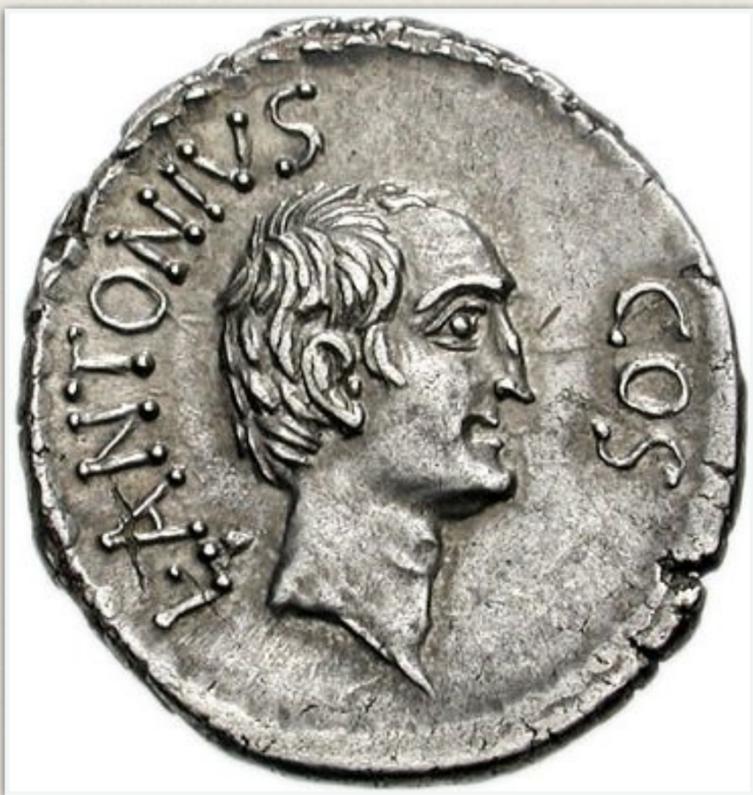
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- ❖ Gaius        ❖ C. (Cn. = Gnaeus)
- ❖ Lucius       ❖ L.
- ❖ Quintus     ❖ Q.
- ❖ Tiberius    ❖ Tib. (T. = Titus)



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Here's another exercise where you can review what the praenomina are, asking simply "quae sunt praenomina?" or, e.g., "quid est praenomen Marii?" These lead us into the nomen gentilicum.

# nomen quod familiae originem declarat

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- ❖ Marcus Antonius / Lucius Antonius
- ❖ Quintus Cassius
- ❖ Gnaeus Domitius
- ❖ Gaius Marius

# Nomina feminarum

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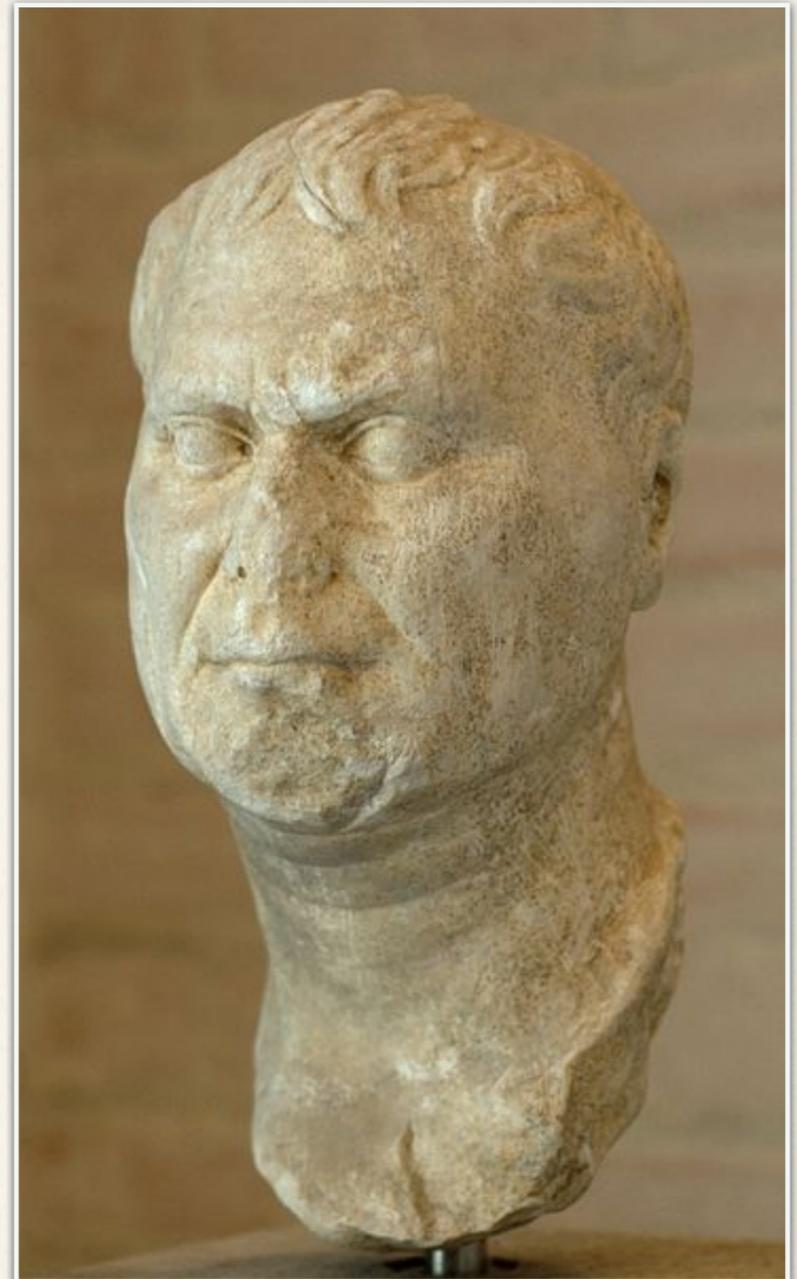
Ca. AD 90. Getty Villa. Photo: Wolfgang Sauber. Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 3.0 license.



Ca. AD 180–190. Louvre Museum. Photo: Clio20. Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 3.0 license.



Ara Pacis museum (Rome). Original in the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme museum (Rome). Photo copyright Giovanni Dall'Orto.



Ca. 60 BC. Glyptothek (Munich). Public domain via Wikimedia.

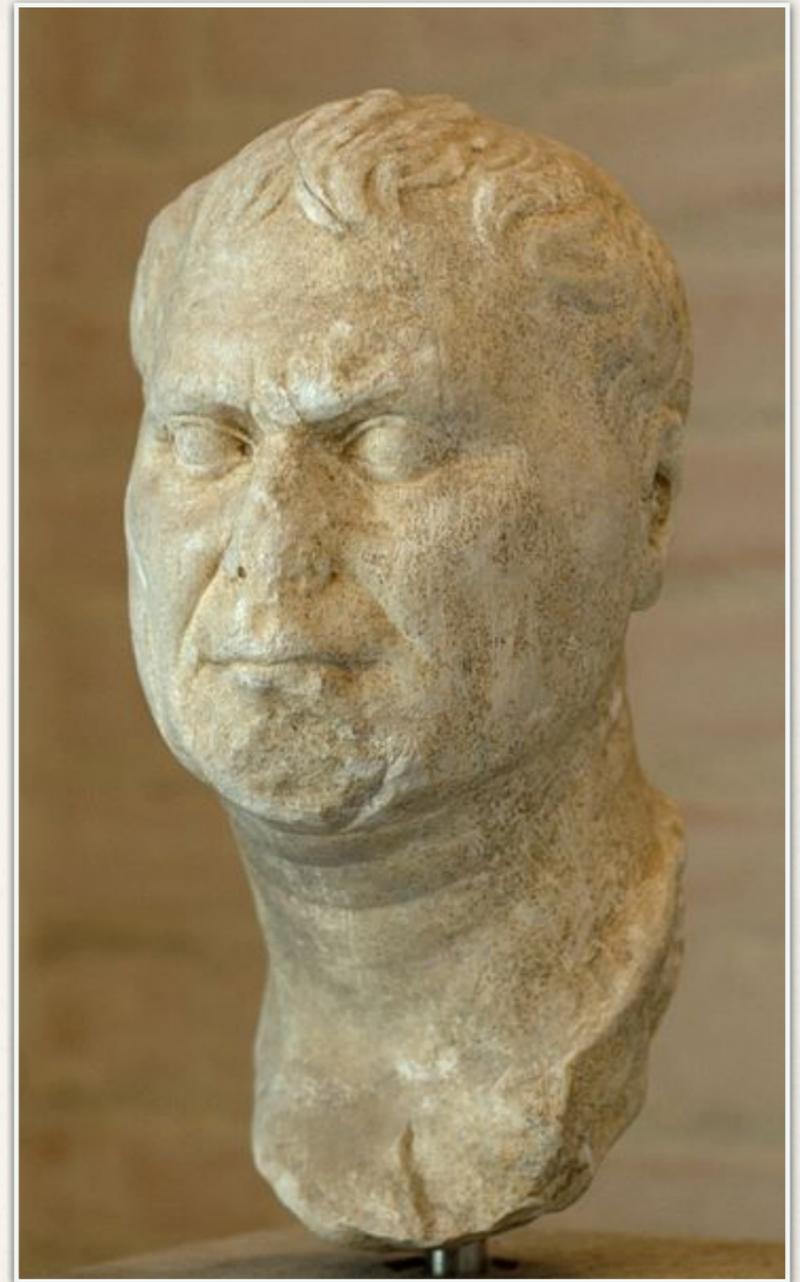
Here's someone the students have seen before [See ACTFL 2013 pt. 1].

[Remember that names are nouns and they decline.]

# Octavia



Ara Pacis museum (Rome). Original in the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme museum (Rome). Photo copyright Giovanni Dall'Orto.



Ca. 60 BC. Glyptothek (Munich). Public domain via Wikimedia.

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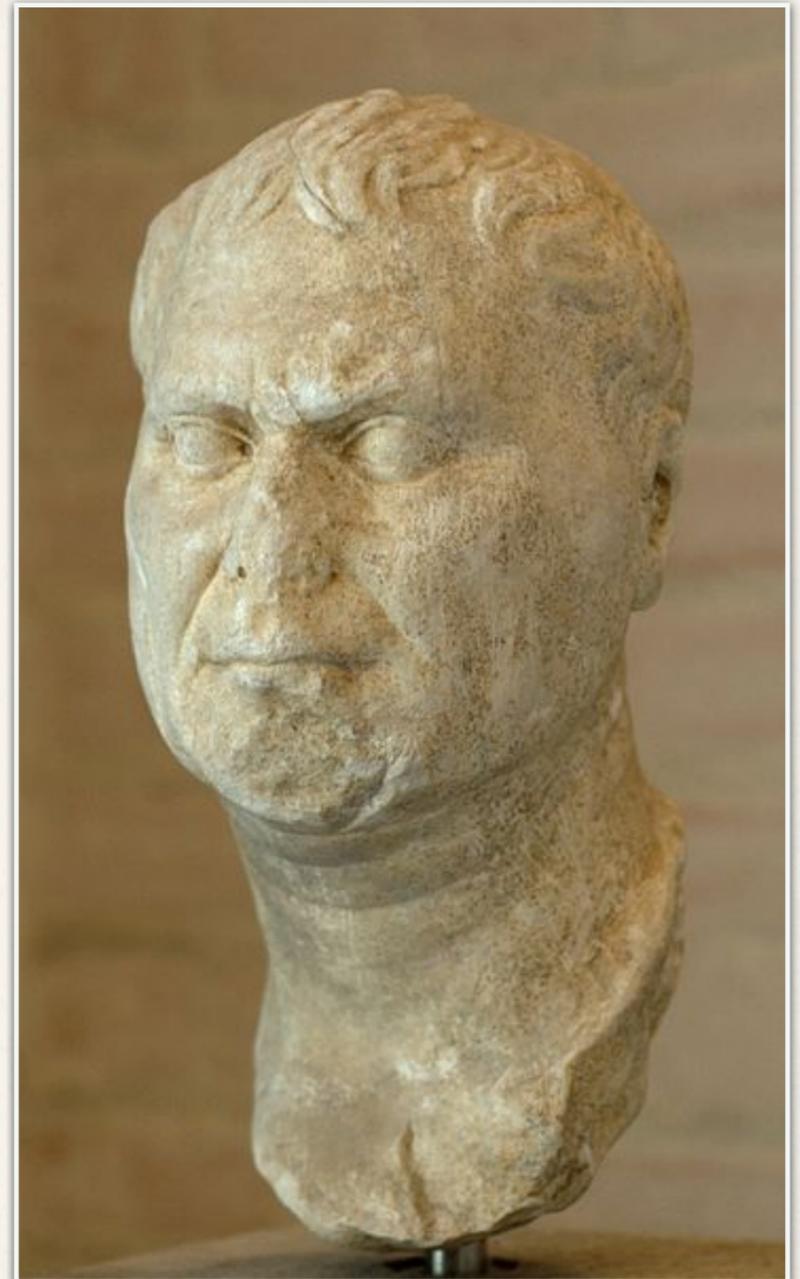
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Ara Pacis museum (Rome). Original in the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme museum (Rome). Photo copyright Giovanni Dall'Orto.

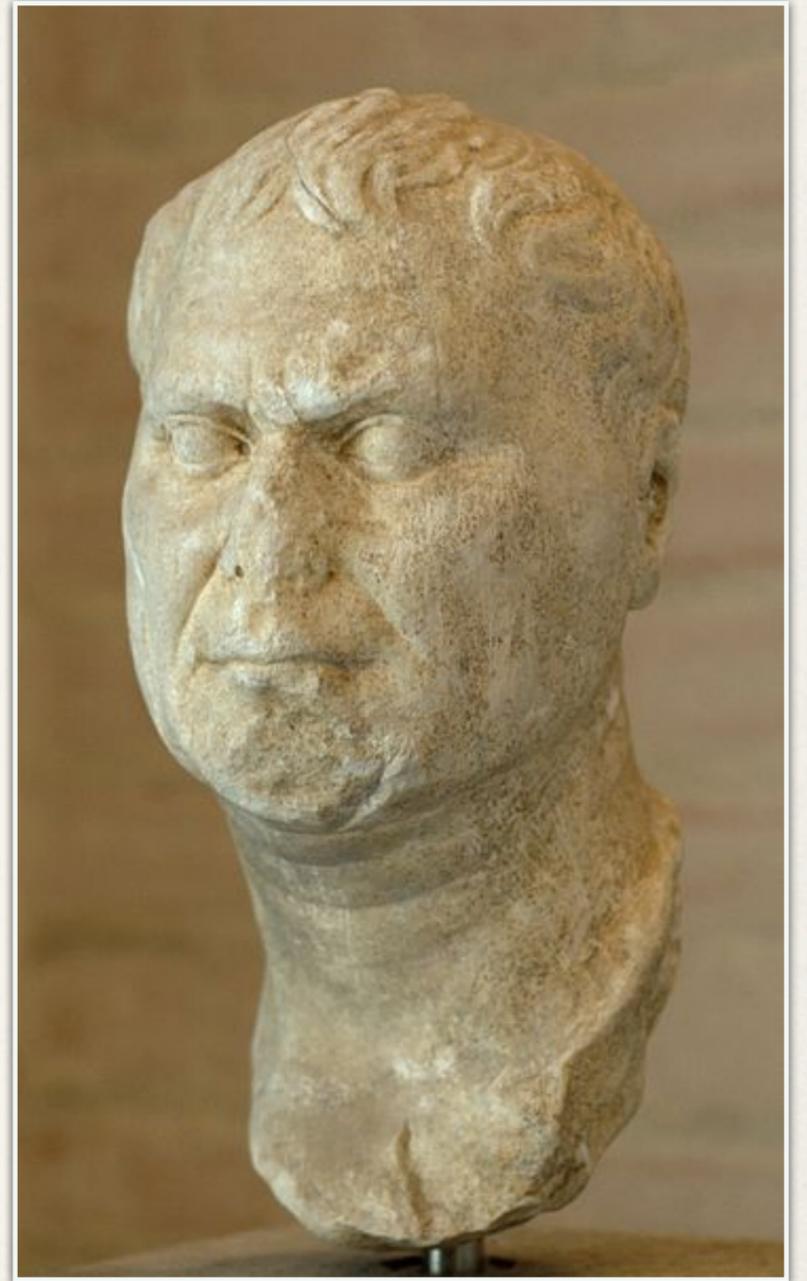
# Gaius Octavius



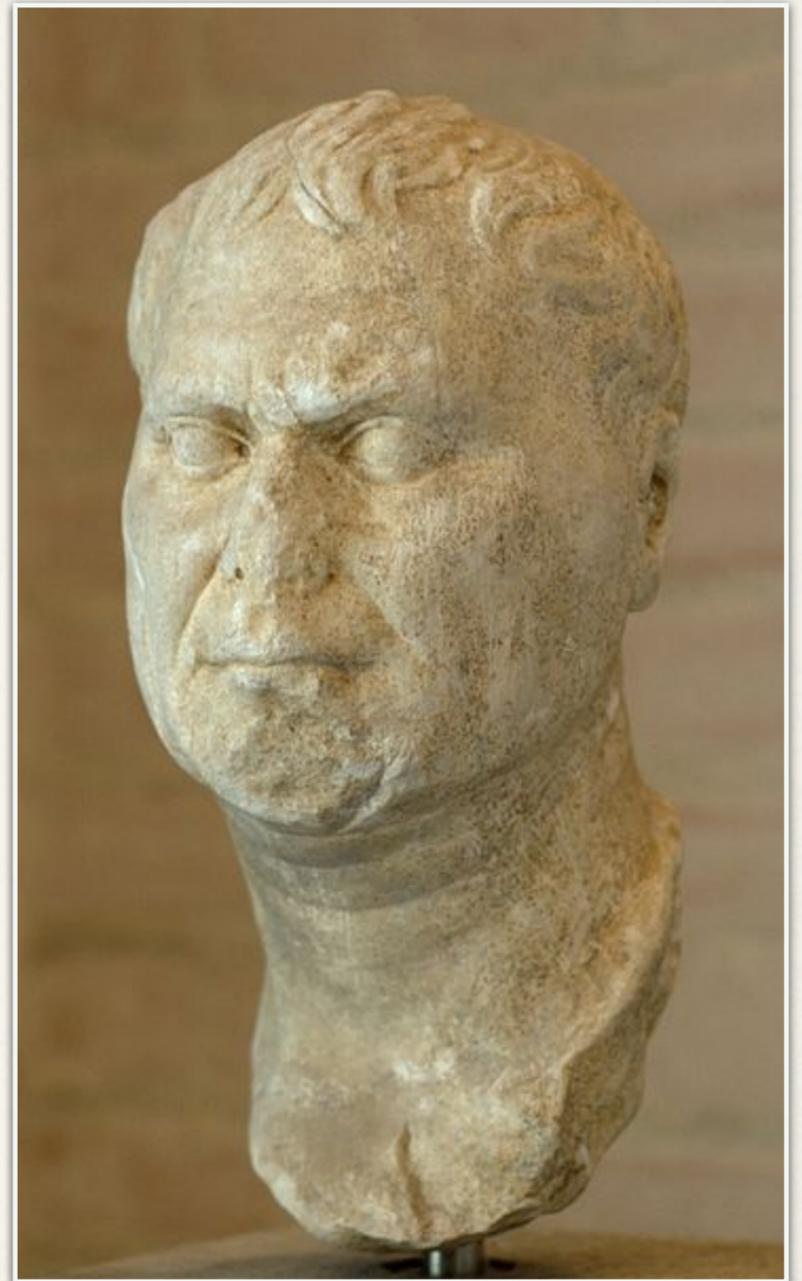
Ca. 60 BC. Glyptothek (Munich). Public domain via Wikimedia.

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Octavia est filia Gai\_\_ Octavi\_\_.

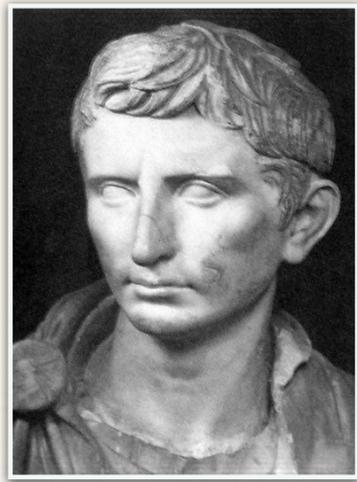


Octavia est filia Gaii Octavii.

Gaius  
Octavius



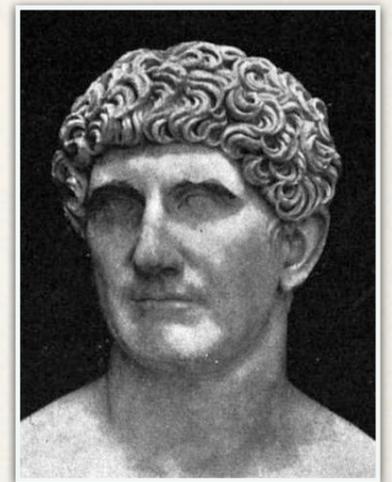
Octavia



Gaius  
Octavius



Octavia



Marcus  
Antonius



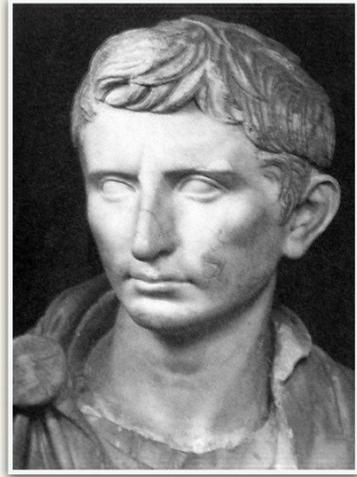
If we've established that Octavia's name came from her father's nomen, what happens if she has a sister, as in fact she did.

[Comic in lieu of other image from <http://www.the-romans.co.uk/augustus.htm>]

Gaius  
Octavius



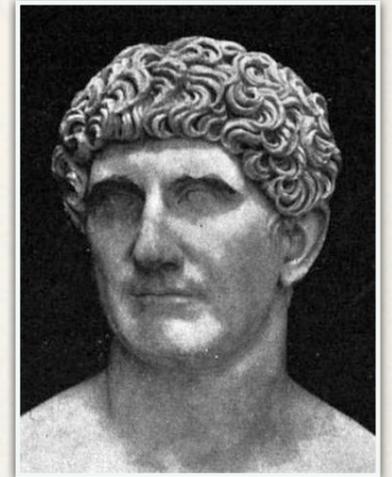
Octavia  
Maior



Gaius  
Octavius



Octavia



Marcus  
Antonius



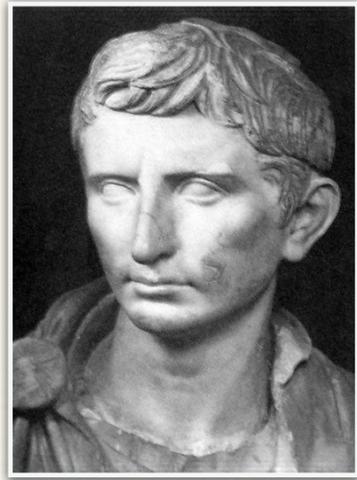
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Gaius  
Octavius



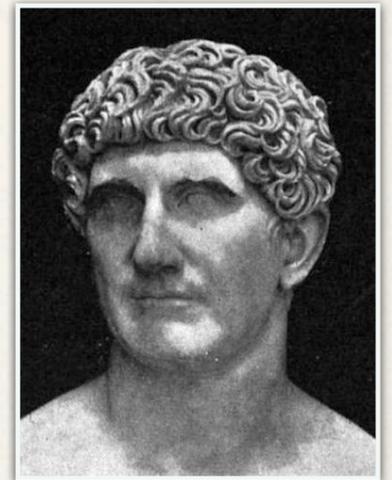
Octavia  
Maior



Gaius  
Octavius



Octavia  
Minor

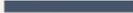
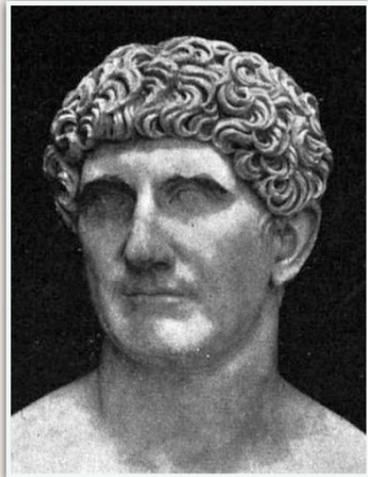
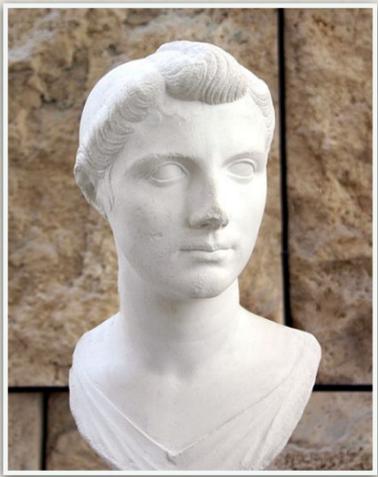


Marcus  
Antonius



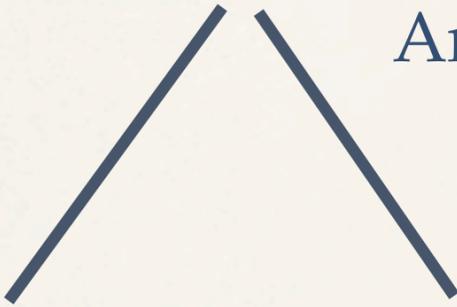
If we've established that Octavia's name came from her father's nomen, what happens if she has a sister, as in fact she did.

[Comic in lieu of other image from <http://www.the-romans.co.uk/augustus.htm>]

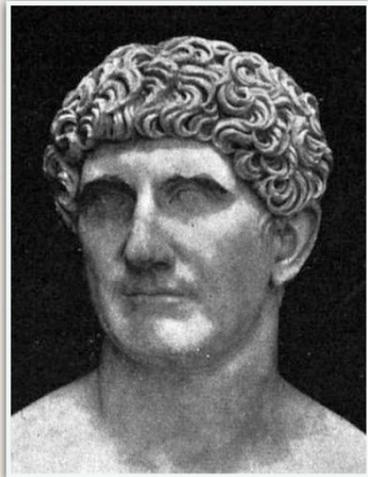
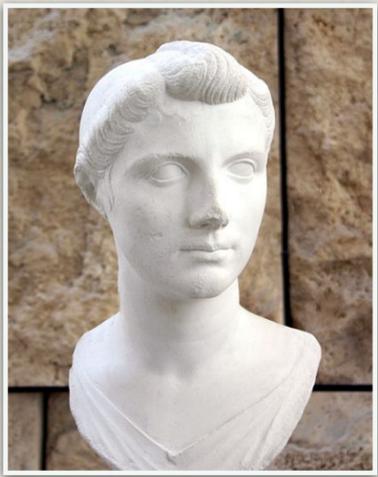


Octavia

Marcus  
Antonius

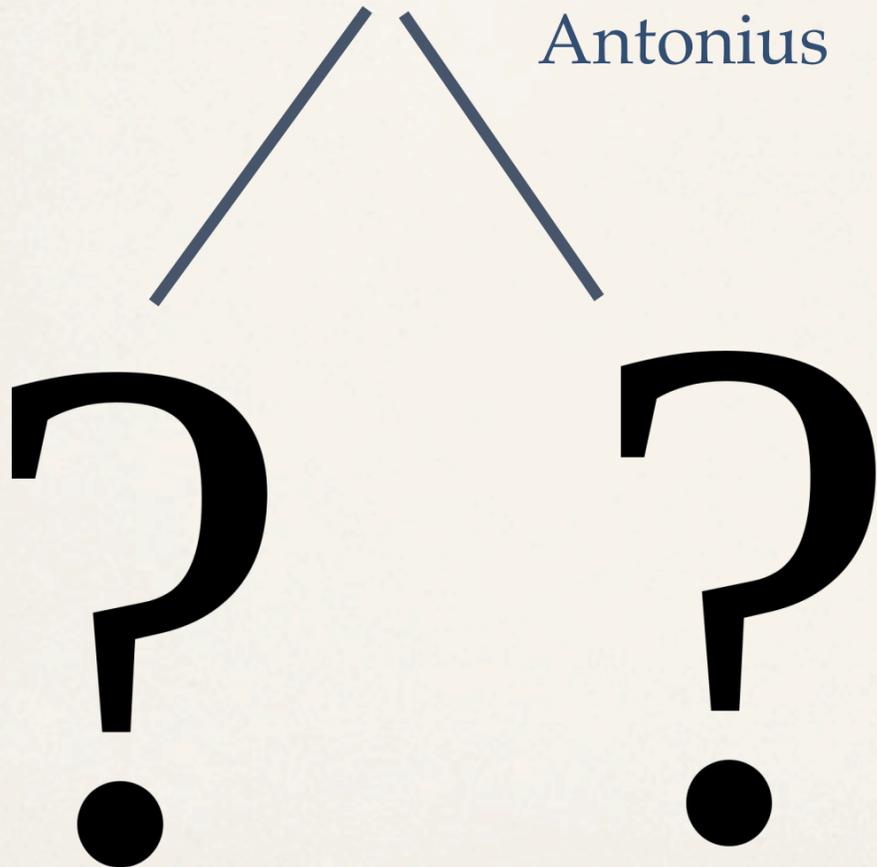


Again you can quite quickly expect students to apply their new knowledge to another example.



Octavia

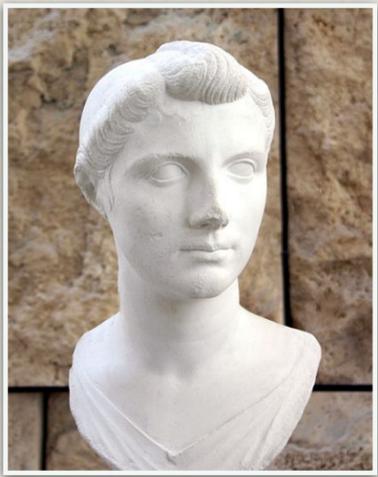
Marcus  
Antonius



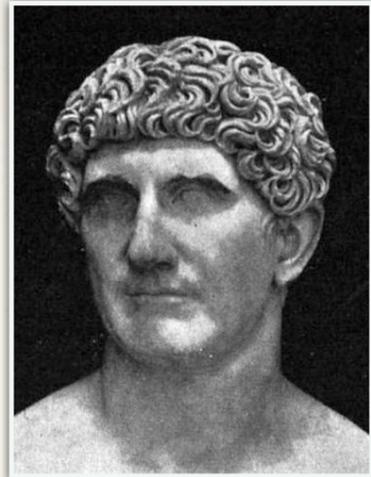
Filia prima Marci Antonii  
et Octaviae est

\_\_\_\_\_.

Again you can quite quickly expect students to apply their new knowledge to another example.



Octavia

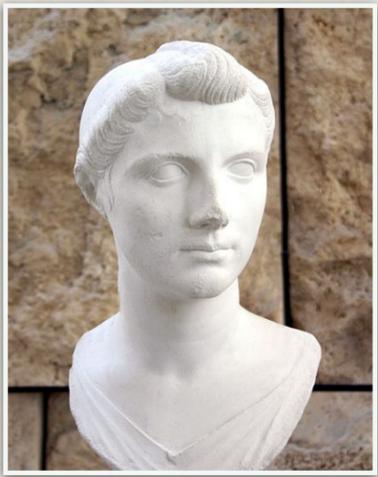


Marcus  
Antonius

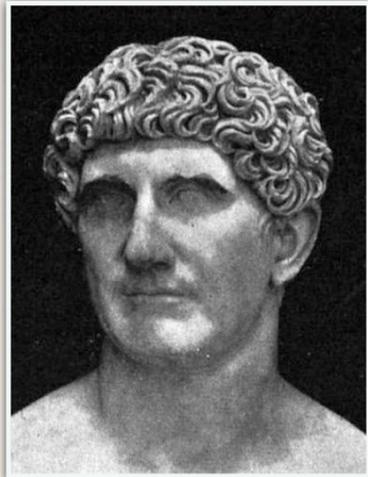


Filia prima Marci Antonii  
et Octaviae est  
**Antonia Maior.**

Again you can quite quickly expect students to apply their new knowledge to another example.



Octavia



Marcus  
Antonius

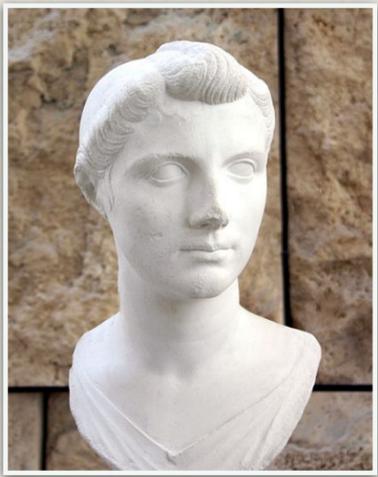


Filia prima Marci Antonii  
et Octaviae est  
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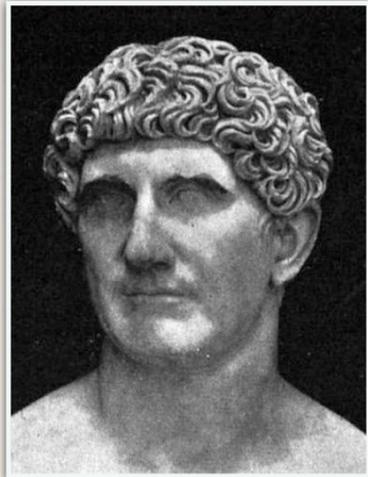
Filia secunda est

\_\_\_\_\_.

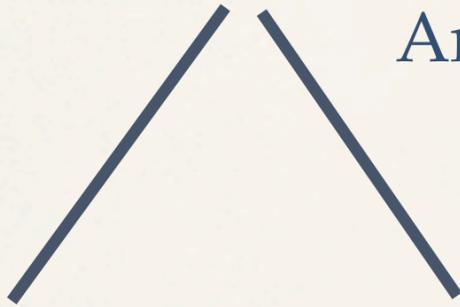
Again you can quite quickly expect students to apply their new knowledge to another example.



Octavia



Marcus  
Antonius



Filia prima Marci Antonii  
et Octaviae est  
**Antonia Maior.**  
Filia secunda est  
**Antonia Minor.**

Again you can quite quickly expect students to apply their new knowledge to another example.

# cognomen quod nomini subiungitur, ut Scipio

---



“Romanus sum ... civis;  
C. Mucium vocant.  
Hostis hostem occidere volui.”  
dextramque accenso ad  
sacrificium foculo inicit.

Livy 2.12–13

Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini. ca. 1707.

We can learn about the origin of a cognomen through a story.

---

Consider that we just saw that the son of Gaius Octavius was Gaius Octavius. Subsequent generations might have lots of men with the same name. When a cognomen was used to distinguish an individual, sometimes that person became best known by his cognomen.

A cognomen might have originally been a sort of nickname given to one person, but these names could then be handed down through generations. Some were used to distinguish branches within a large gens.

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dextramque accenso ad  
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Gaius Mucius

cui postea Scaevolae a clade dextrae  
manus cognomen inditum

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dextramque accenso ad  
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Gaius Mucius  
**Scaevola**

cui postea Scaevolae a clade dextrae  
manus cognomen inditum

Livy 2.12–13

Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini. ca. 1707.

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## Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus

<http://www.utexas.edu/courses/ancientfilmCC304/lecture23/detail.php?linenum=2>

Thursday, November 13, 14

26

Important historical figures illustrate the variety of ways in which a cognomen can be acquired. Pompey who self-named and Caesar who inherited one.

-----  
Might think Julius Caesar has Julius as a praenomen, but this is actually his nomen while Caesar is his cognomen.  
Full name is Gaius Julius Caesar.

Pliny HN 7.9

Chap. IX.ix.47

(On the etymology of Caesar from cutting involved in Caesarian section)

Auspiciatus enecta parente gignuntur, sicut Scipio Africanus prior natus primusque Caesarum a caeso matris utero dictus, qua de causa et Caesones appellati. simili modo natus et



**Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus**

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**Gaius Julius Caesar**

Silver denarius. 44 BC. Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>. Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 2.5 license.

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## Gaius Julius Caesar

Silver denarius. 44 BC. Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>. Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 2.5 license.



## Marcus Junius Brutus

Silver denarius. 43–42 BC. <http://www.romancoins.info/VIC-Historical1.html>.

It's a good to tell students how English convention rather confusingly refers to some people by their nomen and others by their cognomen. For example, Brutus we refer to by his cognomen, but his fellow assassin Gaius Cassius Longinus is referred to by his nomen.



## Brutus' coin commemorating the Ides of March

Silver denarius. 43–42 BC. British Museum.

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight\\_objects/cm/s/silver\\_denarius\\_of\\_marcus\\_juni.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/s/silver_denarius_of_marcus_juni.aspx)

Thursday, November 13, 14

28

So far we've been using the obverse of coins to illustrate naming convention. The reverse of coins were often used for more propagandistic purposes. A well-known example being the "Ides of March" coins issued by Brutus after Caesar's assassination.

Brutus, who had been adopted by his own uncle Quintus Servilius Caepio, is said to have stopped using his adopted name of Quintus Servilius Caepio Brutus and reverted to his birth name. But after the Ides of March, he resumed his adoptive name in order to emphasize the Servilian side of his family and hence his connection with an earlier tyrannicide, Gaius Servilius Ahala (5th c. BC) who killed the ambitious Spurius Maelius.

-----

Obverse also has the name of the moneyer.  
Reverse shows a freedman's cap between daggers.



## Coin of M. Junius Brutus commemorating L. Junius Brutus

Silver denarius. [http://coinproject.com/search\\_emperor.php?emp=M.-Junius-Brutus-%5BBRVTVS-or-LEIBERTAS%5D&city=&type=6](http://coinproject.com/search_emperor.php?emp=M.-Junius-Brutus-%5BBRVTVS-or-LEIBERTAS%5D&city=&type=6)

On this coin, another produced by Brutus, both sides are made use of. The obverse shows Libertas, the sense of which is made more explicit by the image on the reverse: Brutus' ancestor, one of the first two consuls, walking with lictors, symbolic of imperium. [Good time to talk about the end of the monarchy.]





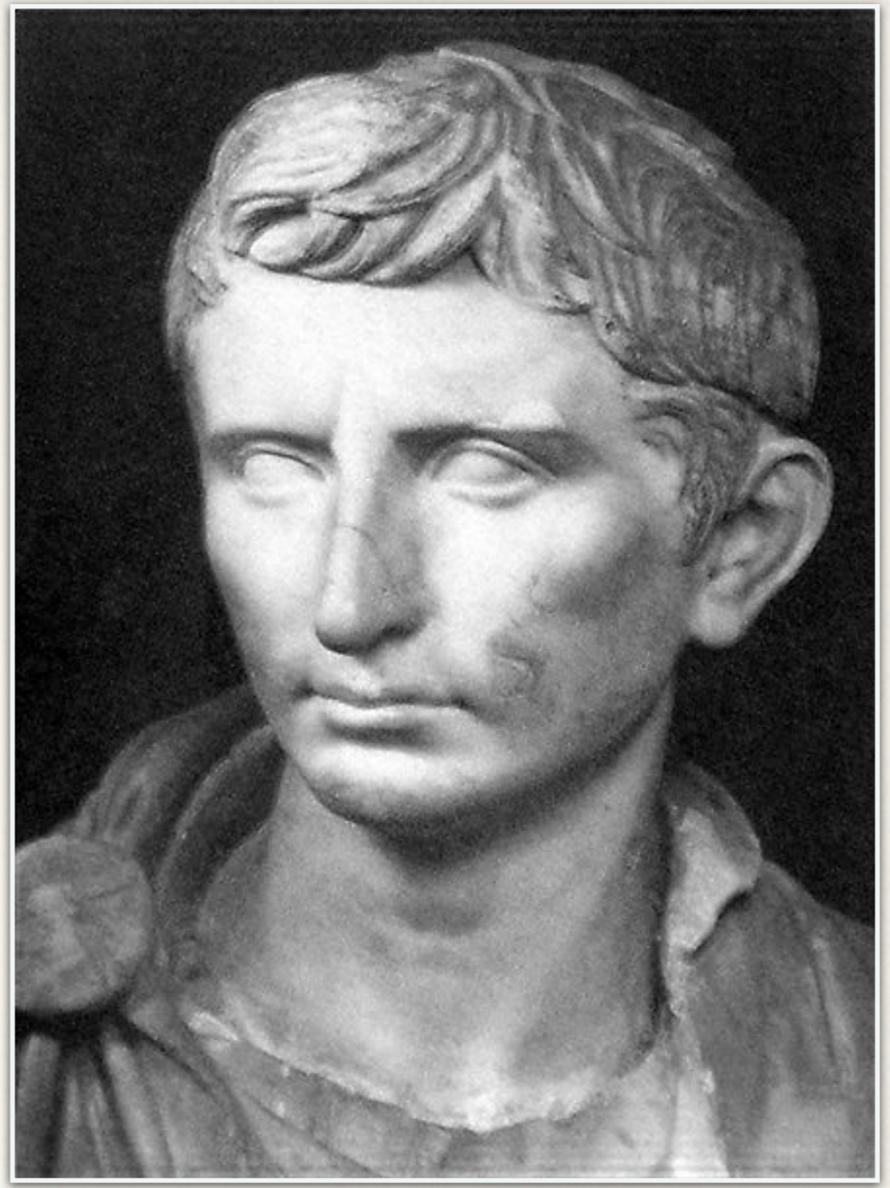
Code of Virginia, § 1-500, The Great Seal  
<[http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?  
000+cod+1-500](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+1-500)>

“On the obverse, Virtus, the genius of the Commonwealth, dressed as an Amazon, resting on a spear in her right hand, point downward, touching the earth; and holding in her left hand, a sheathed sword, or parazonium, pointing upward; her head erect and face upturned; her left foot on the form of Tyranny represented by the prostrate body of a man, with his head to her left, his fallen crown nearby, a broken chain in his left hand, and a scourge in his right. Above the group and within the border conforming therewith, shall be the word ‘Virginia,’ and, in the space below, on a curved line, shall be the motto, ‘Sic Semper Tyrannis.’”

Not forgetting the 5C's, you can always make a connection to more contemporary iconography.



Gaius Octavius

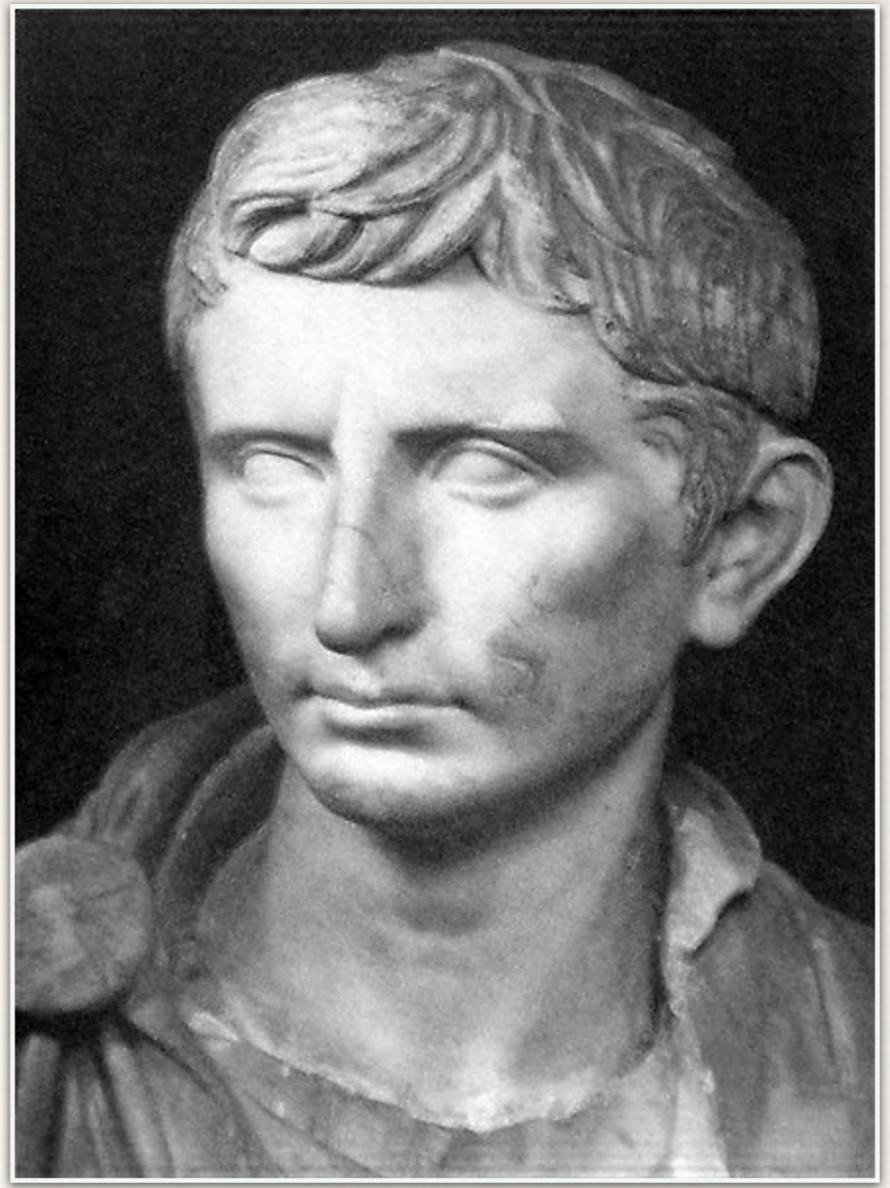


Gaius Octavius

Related to the limited of number of praenomina, and the tradition of handing down the nomen, we can explain to students the difficulty that historians have in distinguishing which particular generation (or even siblings within a generation) are the subject of any given text or image.

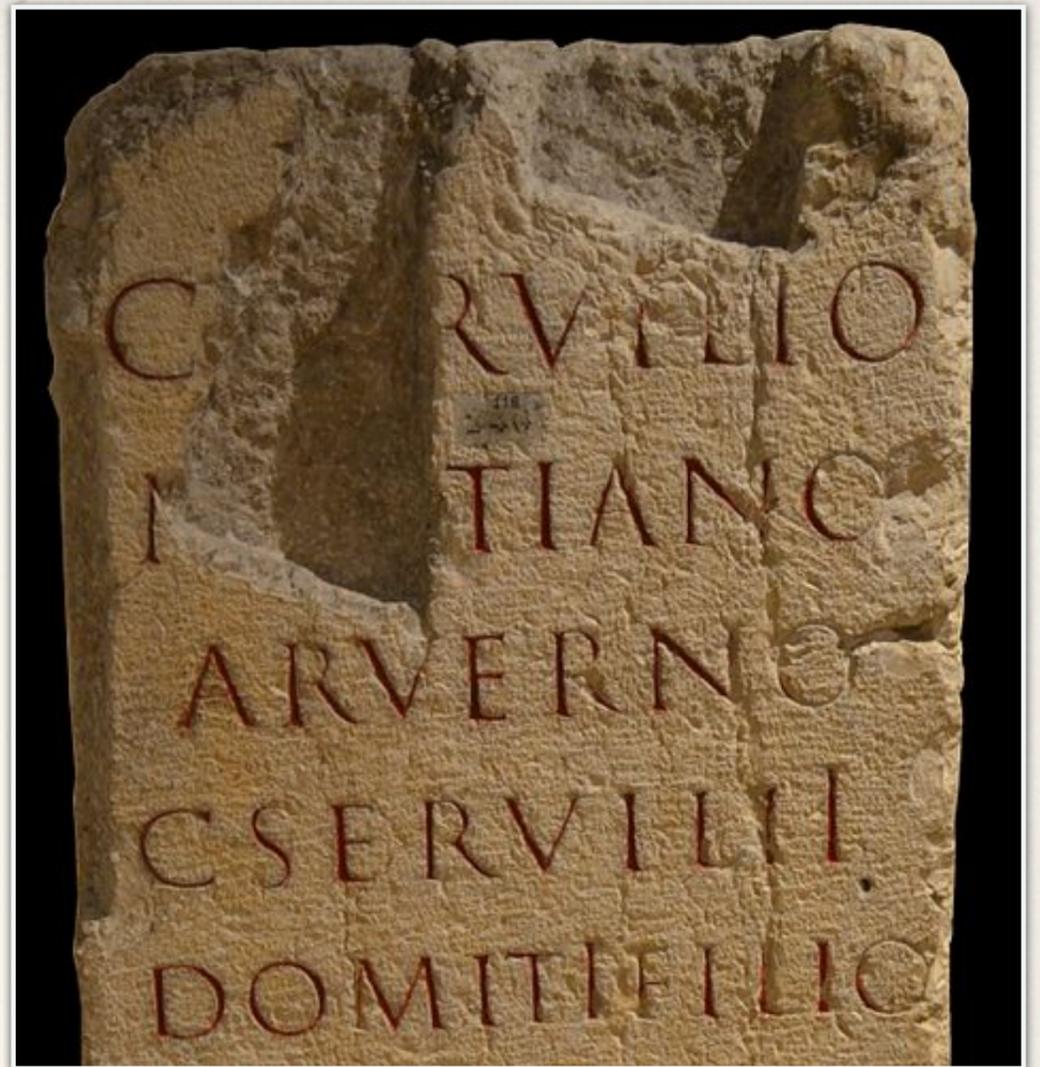
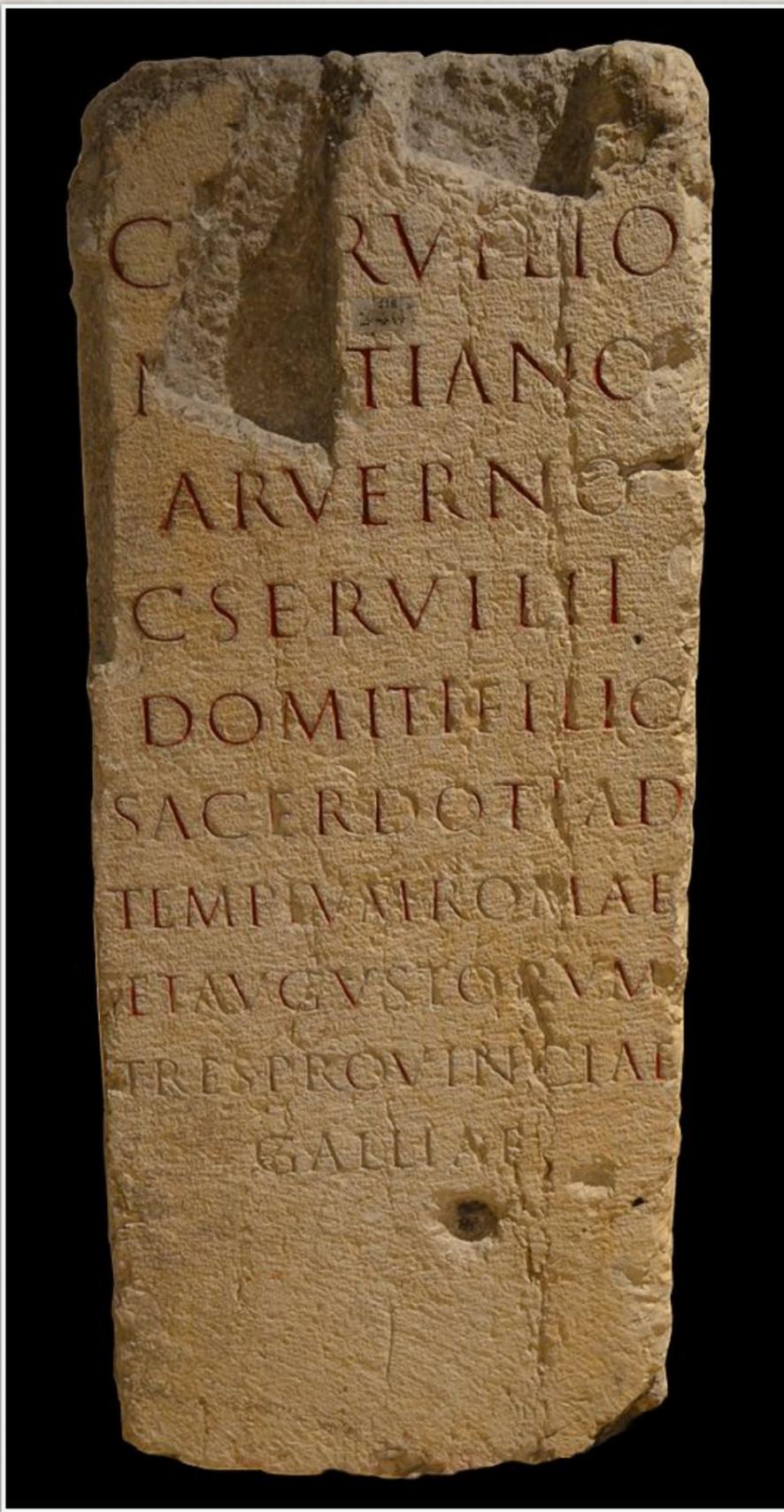


Gaius Octavius



Gaius Octavius  
Gaii filius

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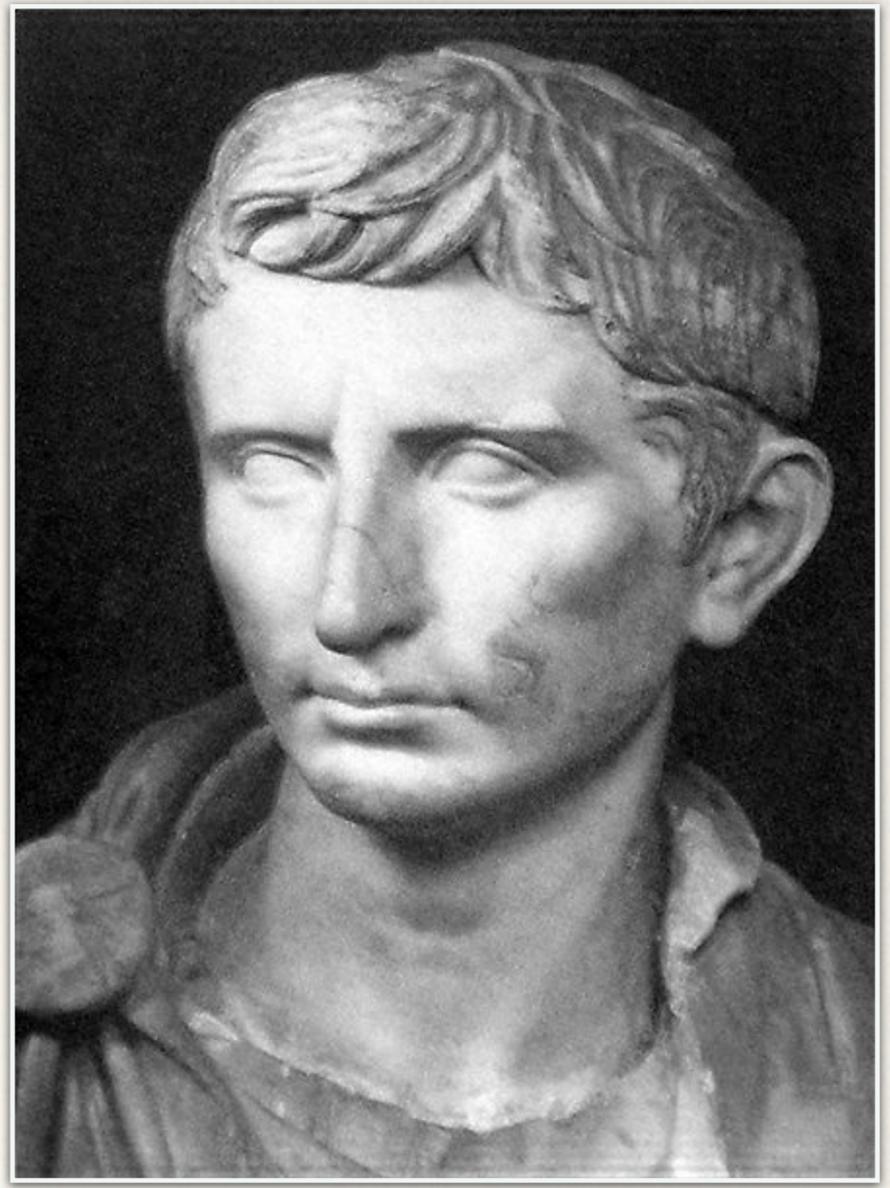


C. [Se]rvilio  
[Mar]tiano  
Arverno  
C. Servilii  
**Domiti filio**

One way to differentiate is to use a different cognomen. Both are C. Servilius, but one is Martianus and the other Domitius.

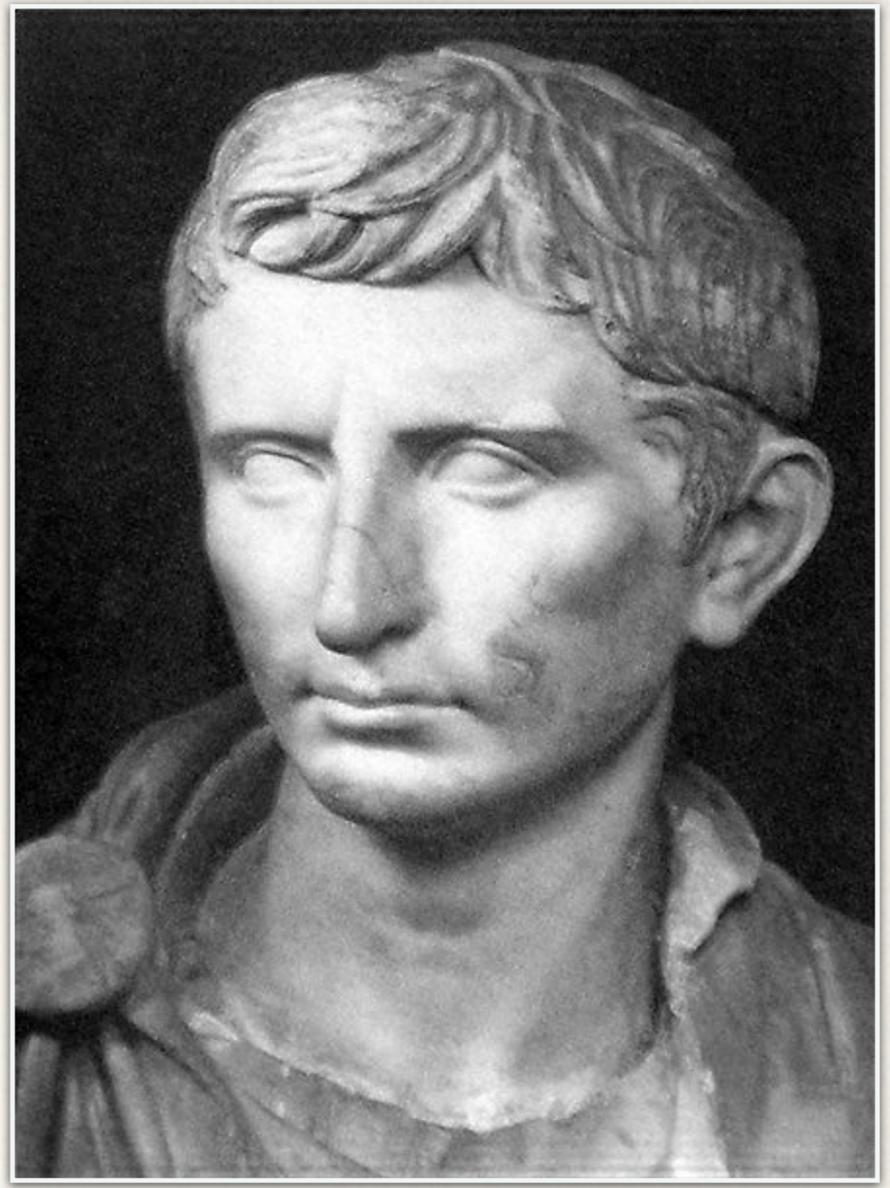


Gaius Octavius



Gaius Octavius  
Gaii filius

Another complication is name changes that can happen even relatively late in life through adoption. The most famous example being ..., which is another source for a cognomen.

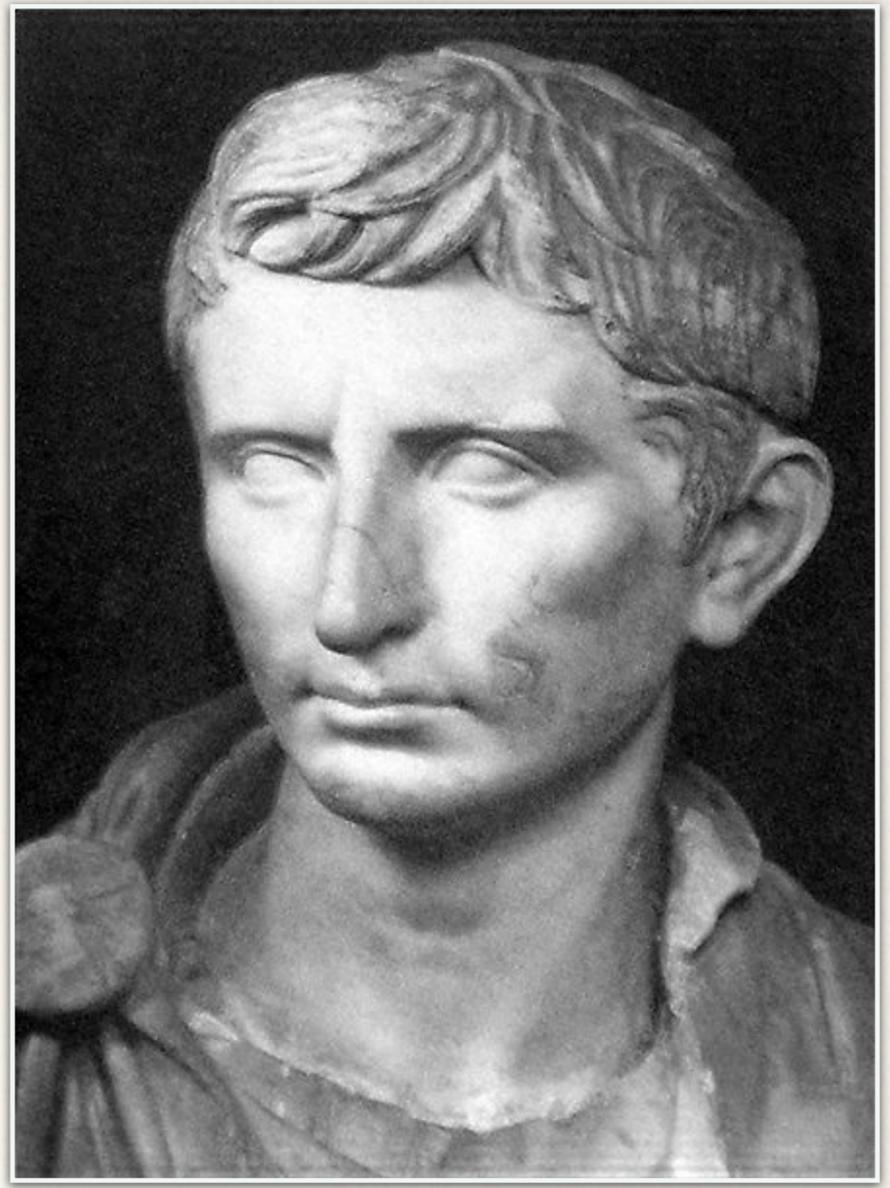


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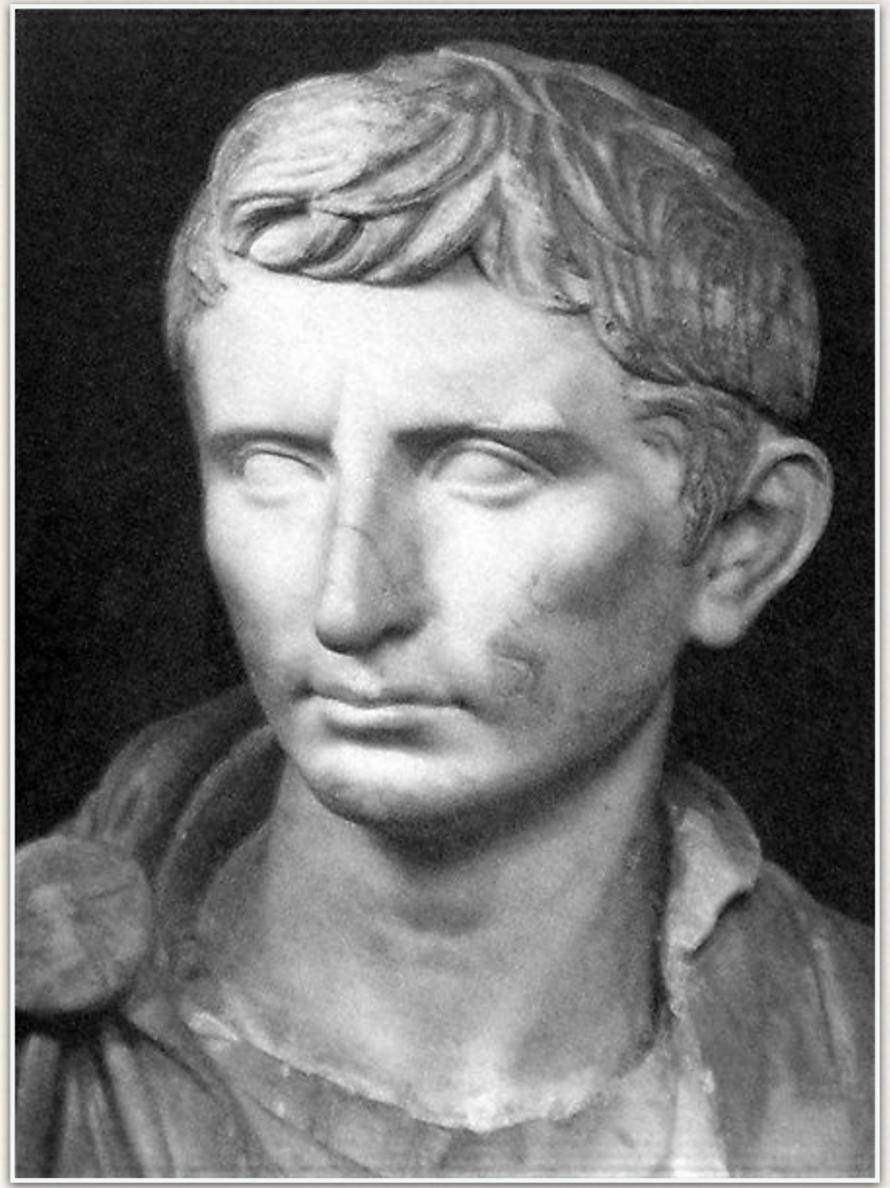


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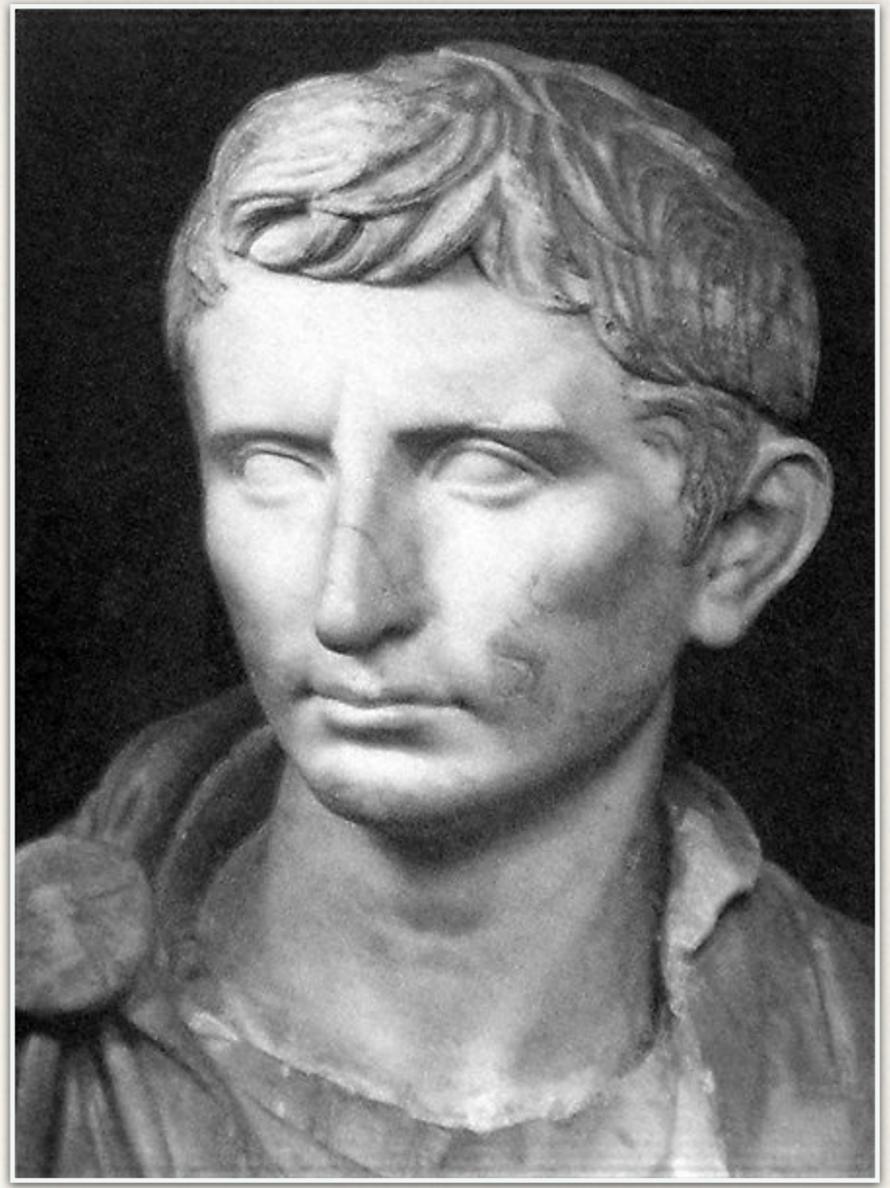


Gaius Julius Caesar  
Octavianus

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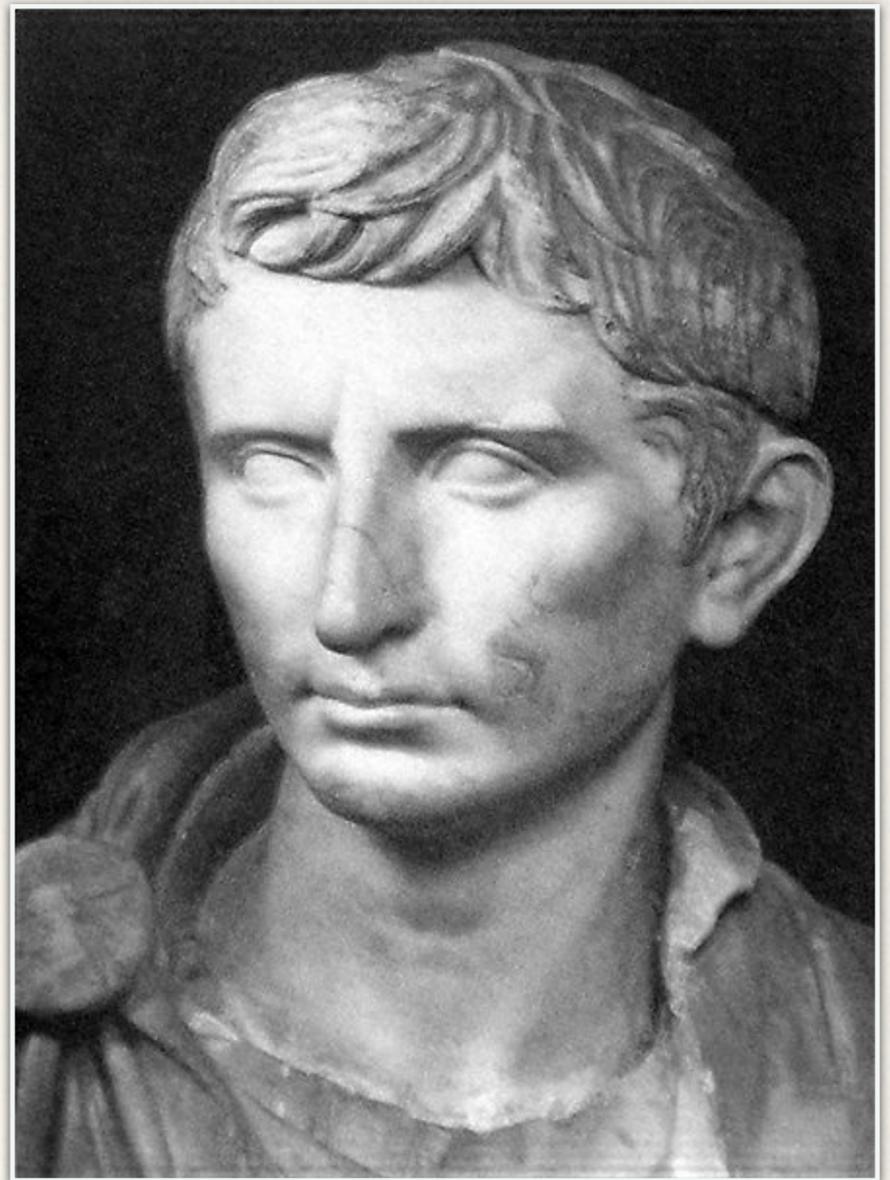


Gaius Julius Caesar  
Octavianus

A name can be a form of self-branding. So Octavian took advantage of the deification of Caesar, and his own new status as Divi filius, to rename and rebrand himself by substituting the honorific Caesar Augustus for his traditionally acquired name.



Gaius Julius Caesar

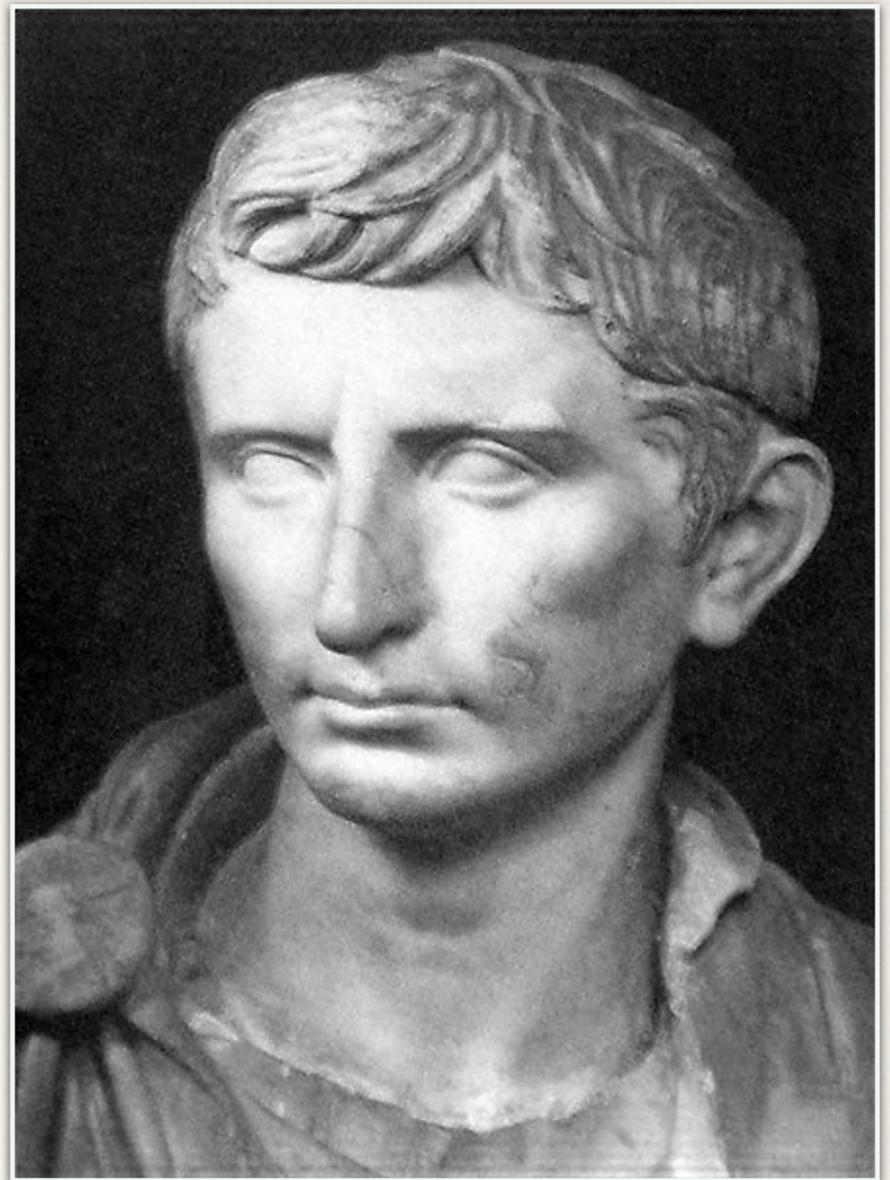


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Divus Julius



Gaius Julius Caesar  
Octavianus

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Divus Julius



Caesar Augustus

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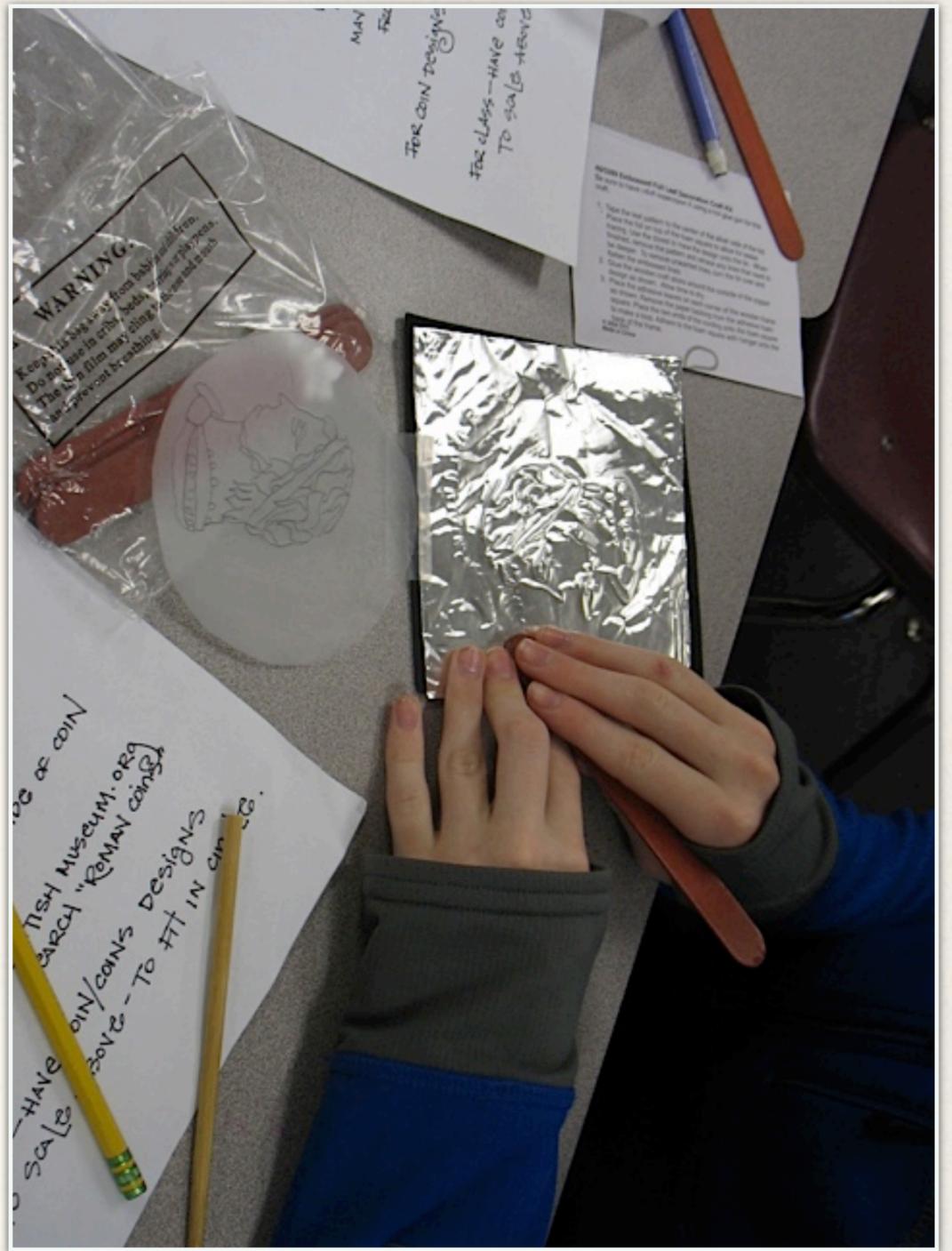


Divus Julius



Caesar Augustus  
Divi filius

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## Swanson Middle School (VA) Coin Project

Thursday, November 13, 14

36

We've used coins as supportive evidence for the primary sources on Roman names and image-making. A related project I recently did was to have students create coins for the Roman kings and Lucius Junius Brutus, ...



## Swanson Middle School (VA) Coin Project

Thursday, November 13, 14

37

... copying portraits and names for the obverse, but designing relevant iconography and text for the reverse along the lines of the examples that we've studied, such as ...



CAESAR

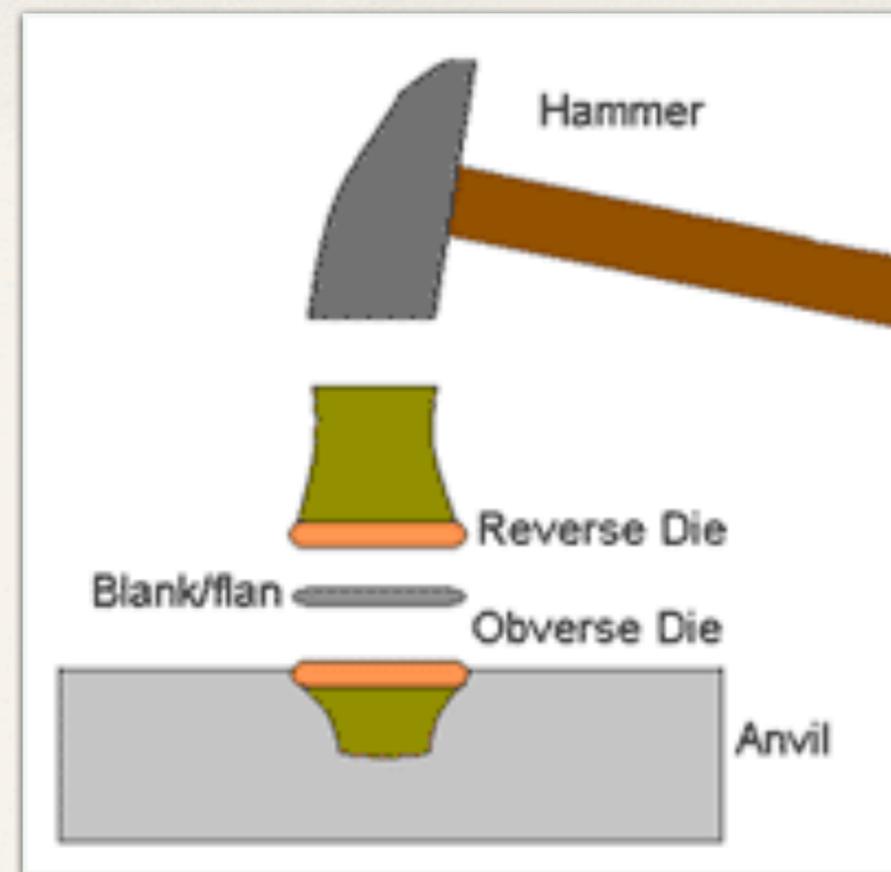
COS VI

AEGYPTO

CAPTA

Silver denarius. ca. 29–27 BC. Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>. Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 2.5 license.

# Coins and minting



Above: Joe Geranio at <http://www.forumancientcoins.com/numiswiki>  
Right: [http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/acans/caesar/Intro\\_Moneyer.htm](http://www.humanities.mq.edu.au/acans/caesar/Intro_Moneyer.htm)



If you're really ambitious, you can try making dies and actually hammering out coins.

agnomen quod extrinsecus adici solet, ut Africanus.

---

nam agnomina cognominibus **ex aliqua ratione aut virtute** adduntur, velut Africanus Creticus Asiaticus Numantinus et his similia.

Charisius



CORNELIA AFRICANI F

Photo copyright: MrJennings <<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mrjennings/7042977/>>

The concept of a fourth type of name in addition to the more familiar tria nomina appears first in these later grammarians. The agnomen is defined by Charisius as being either bestowed on account of “virtus” or “some other reason.” The examples of “virtus” are all military achievements, such as those of Africanus.

agnomen quod extrinsecus adici solet, ut Africanus.

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Charisius



CAECILIAE  
Q. CRETICI F.  
METELLAE CRASSI

Public domain via Wikimedia  
Commons user Lalupa.

Thursday, November 13, 14

41

Transferring the knowledge gained from numismatic study, students should be able to identify the name of the woman and her father, although there is an added layer of complexity with the addition of a feminine cognomen. And how is Crassus connected?

-----  
Quintus Caecilius Metellus Creticus (c. 135 BC – late 50s BC)

Caecilia Metella (b. c. 100 BC, fl. 69 BC)

Marcus Licinius Crassus (86 or 85 BC–ca. 49 BC). Elder son of the triumvir

CAECILIAE  
Q. CRETICI F.  
METELLAE CRASSI



Above: public domain via  
Wikimedia Commons user Lalupa.  
Left: public domain via Wikimedia  
Commons user AlfvandBeem.

The monument that bears this inscription is actually huge. Given that we know nothing of Caecilia Metella to warrant such a memorial to her personally, students can be invited to speculate as what other purpose this memorial might serve. Their knowledge of Roman ancestor worship should come into play and suggest that the monument serves to glorify the entire gens more so than the individual. And it happens to be in a very prominent place, on the Via Appia, which we'll get to later.

Iam agnomen extrinsecus venit, et venit **tribus modis**,  
**aut ex animo aut ex corpore aut ex fortuna**: ex animo,  
sicut Superbus et Pius, ex corpore, sicut Crassus et  
Pulcher, ex fortuna, sicut Africanus et Creticus.

Marius Victorinus (via Wikipedia)



Denarius. 55 BC. Classical  
Numismatic Group, Inc.  
[http://  
www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com).  
Creative Commons  
Attribution Generic 2.5  
license.

What about those “other reasons” for agnomina that Charisius refers too? We can compare another grammarian.

# Agnomen classification

	Animus	Corpus	Fortuna
Severus			
Macedonicus			
Calvus			
Strabo			
Numidicus			
Probus			
Barbatus			
Germanicus			
Nasica			
Felix			

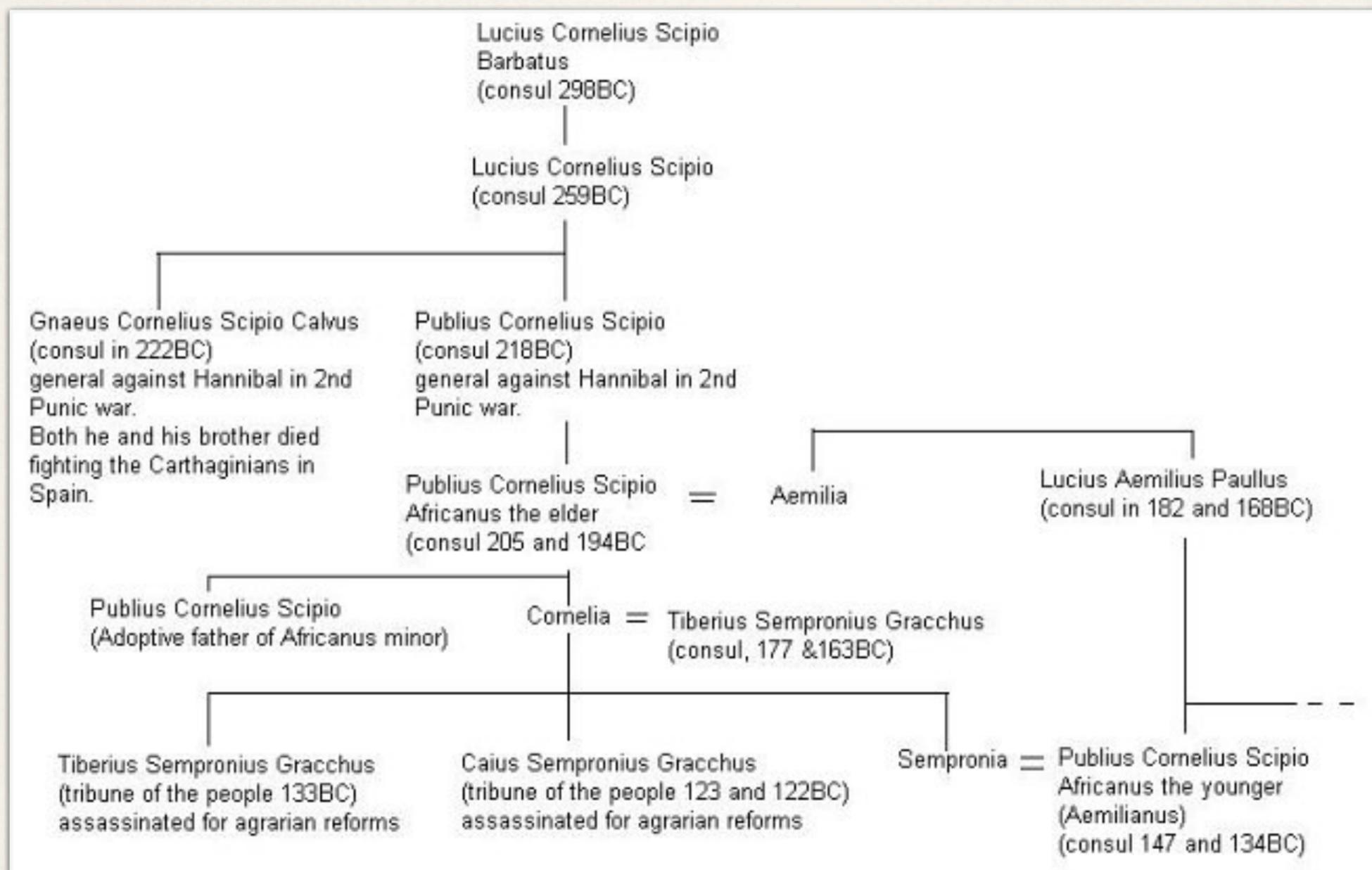
A simple follow-up exercise would be to classify a set of agnomina such as these. Rather than just checking a box, students should be asked to use the grammatical construction modeled in the primary sources. This conveniently provides nouns of the first three declensions for which to review the ablative singular.

# Agnomen classification

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Numidicus			
Probus			
Barbatus			
Germanicus			
Nasica			
Felix			

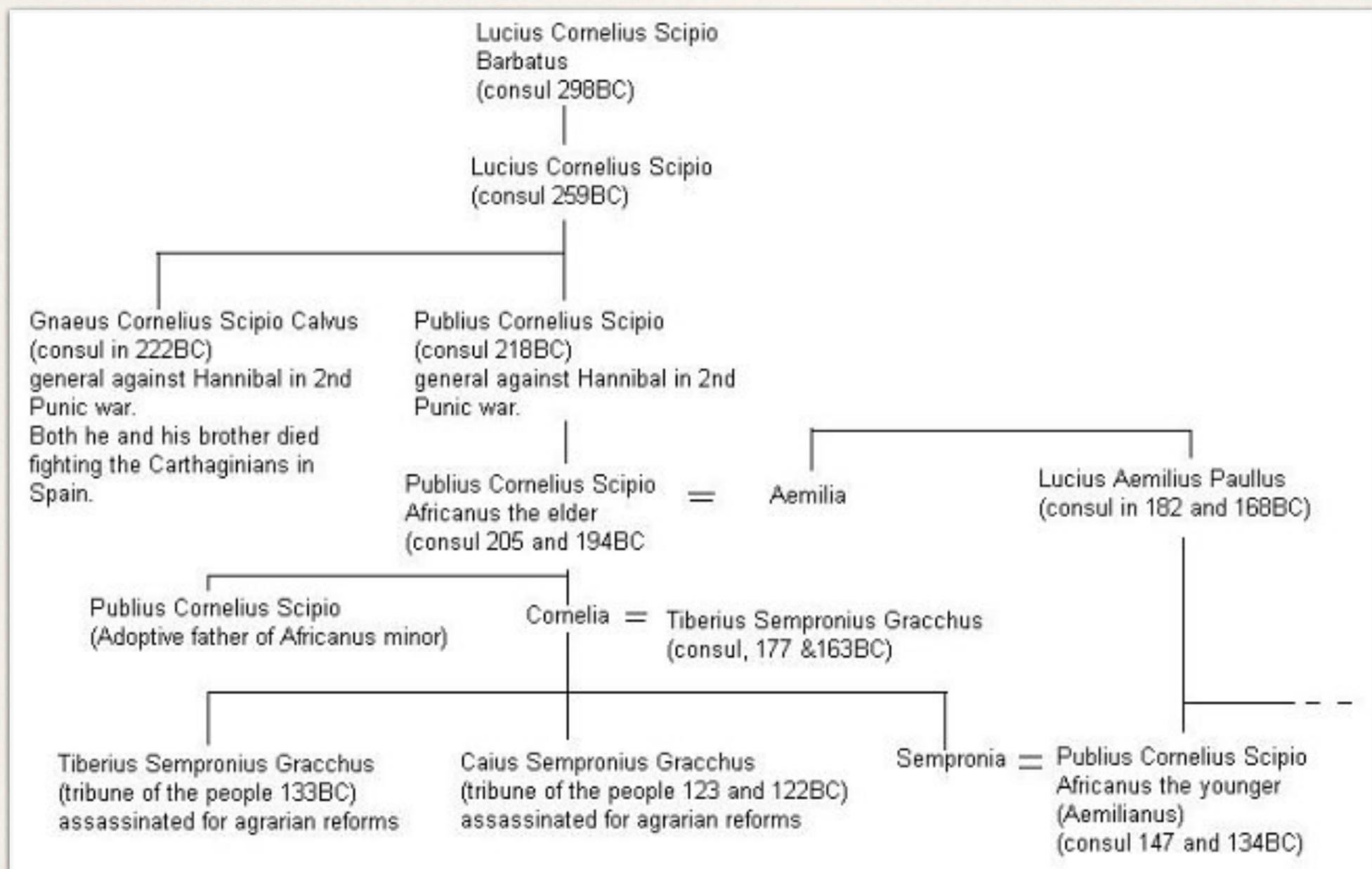
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# Family tree



Once last exercise in prosopography would be to provide students with a family tree of a prominent Roman family which they would have to interpret, expanding the information into traditional abbreviated forms, like those we've been looking at, but also into complete sentences with forms written out fully. They could even then swap with a partner and work backward recreating the family tree from the narrative version.

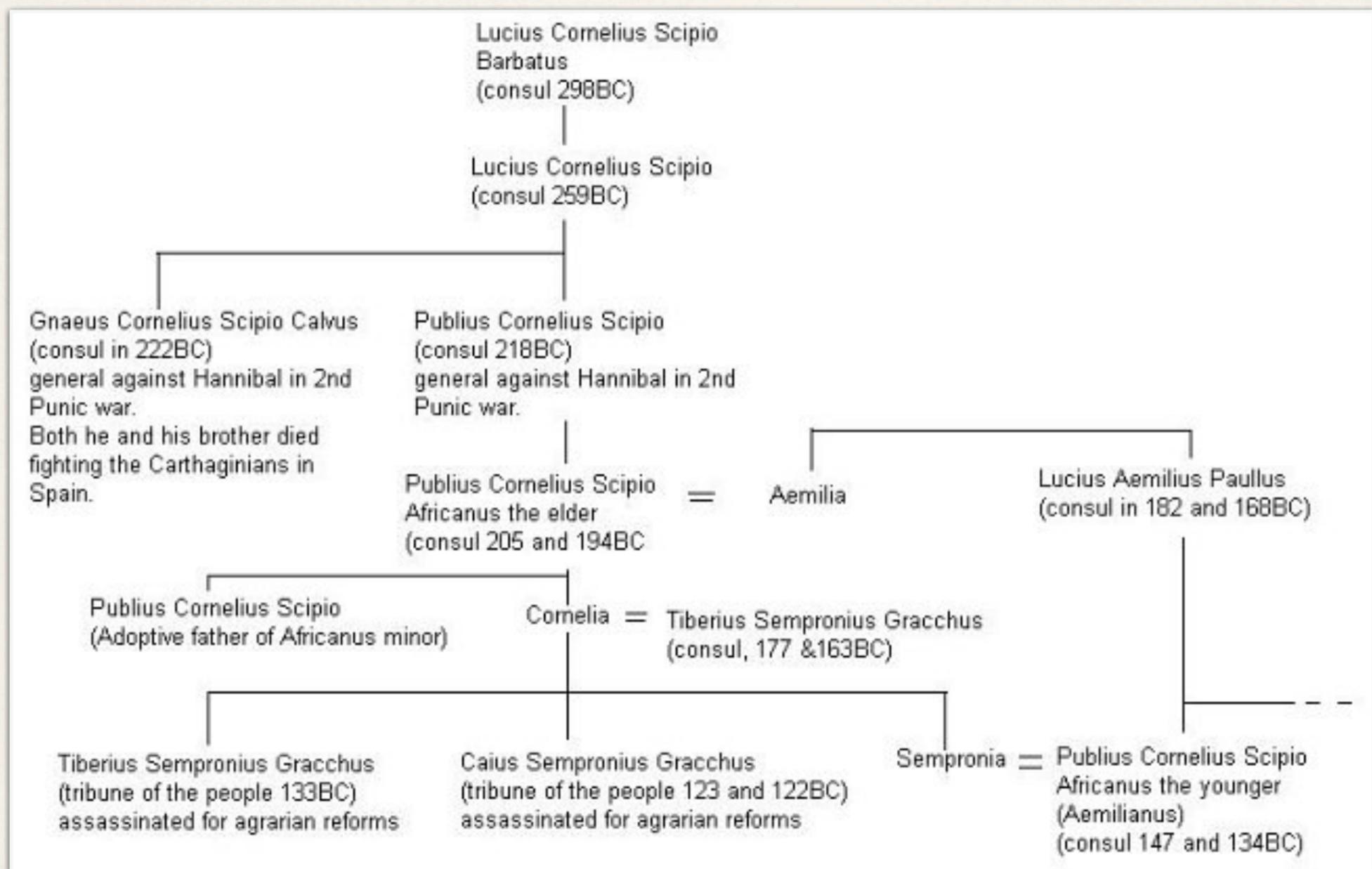
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L. Cornelius L. f. Scipio

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L. Cornelius L. f. Scipio

P. Cornelius L. f. L. n. Scipio

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# RST.9-10.7

---

Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and **translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words.**