

K18 Ovid, *Fasti*: Mars comes to see his temple

But why do Orion and the other stars make haste to flee 545

From the heavens? Why does the night abbreviate her journey?

Why does fair daylight, heralded by Lucifer, the Morning Star, uplift

More quickly than its wont his sunbeams out of the liquid sea?
 Am I mistaken, do I hear the sound of weapons? Ay, a crash there was
 Of weaponry, for Mars is on his way; and as he comes he signals war. 550
 The Avenger God himself descends from heaven to take his due
 Meed of honour and in Augustus' forum to behold his temple.
 Vast is the god and vast his temple too. For meet and right it is
 That thus should Mars reside within his own offspring's city.
 It is a shrine full worthy of the spoils he gained from the Giants. 555
 How right it is that here Mars, the Marcher, launches his campaigns,
 Whether an impious enemy assaults us from eastern kingdoms
 Or from the realms of sunset and must be brought to heel.
 The potentate of weaponry beholds the lofty temple's pediments
 And indicates approval that the unconquered gods should hold 560
 The highest places. On the doors he sees weapons of every shape,
 Arms of the nations conquered by his troops. Here on one side
 He sees Aeneas bent beneath the weight of his beloved burden.
 And countless other ancestors of Julius' mighty line.
 There on the other side he sees Romulus, whose shoulders bear 565
 A conquered general's arms, and all the catalogue of famous deeds
 Inscribed beneath each hero in due order. With Augustus' name he sees
 The temple adorned, the work yet mightier for the name of Caesar.
 He vowed it long ago, when as a youth at duty's holy call
 He took up arms. For from great deeds must such a principate begin. 570
 With arms outstretched, his loyal soldiers ranged to one side
 While on the other stood the conspirators, he spoke these words:
 "If he that is my father and the priest of Vesta is my just cause
 For waging war, if now I seek vengeance for twin divinities,
 Mars, stand to my side and satiate my sword with blood 575
 Of scoundrels. Grant that your favour bless my better cause. Then,
 If I am victor, you shall receive a temple and be called Avenger."
 Such was his vow and joyous he returned, his enemies destroyed.
 Nor is he satisfied but once to win for Mars the Avenger's name:
 A hunter, hot on the trail, he tracks the standards seized by Parthia. 580
 A nation they were, made safe by rolling plains, horses and archers
 And the protecting rivers by whose flood all passage is denied.
 The deaths of Crassus, father and son, had fired that nation's spirit
 When all were lost together – soldiers, and standards, and their general.
 Those Roman standards, symbols of pride in war, a Parthian bore; 585
 The Roman eagle found a Parthian foe for standard-bearer.
 Such was the shame that still had lingered now, had not the arms,
 The mighty arms of Caesar proved Italy's guardians.
 The ancient blight of shame, our century's disgrace, he wiped away;
 The standards were retrieved and once more recognised their own. 590
 What profit was there, Parthian, in arrows discharged backward,
 Parthian fashion? What help your landscape for defence? What use
 Your fiery horses? Our eagles you restore; your conquered bows surrender.
 Gone are the symbols of our great disgrace – no longer yours.
 Rightly to him, our double Avenger, are temple and title given; 595

Honour well merited is the discharge due for debts by honour sworn.
Quirites, Citizens of Rome, to the Circus come and celebrate the games
With due solemnity! The stage is not the proper place for heroes' gods.

[Ovid, *Fasti* 5. 545–598]

K20 Elogium of Aeneas (Forum of Augustus)

Aeneas, son of Venus, king of the Latins, ruled for 3 years.

[Inscr. It. 13.3.1]

K21 Elogium of Romulus, (Pompeii Forum)

Romulus, son of Mars, founded the city of Rome and reigned for 38 years. He was the first general to dedicate *spolia opima* (Spoils of Honour) to Jupiter Feretrius, having slain the enemy's general, Acro king of the Caeninenses, and, having been received among the company of the gods, was called Quirinus.

[Inscr. It. 13.3.86]

Elogia of Romulus and Aeneas were found in the Forum at Pompeii, and are generally thought to have been displayed on the façade of Eumachia's Building, dedicated to Augustan Concord. The *elogium* of Aeneas from Pompeii is far longer than that from the forum of Augustus (K20). For Romulus and the *spolia opima*, see P3.

K22 Statue of M. Valerius Corvinus in the Forum of Augustus

The deified Augustus had a statue erected to this Corvinus in his forum. On the head of the statue is the figure of a raven.

[Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights* 9.11.10]

Gellius recounted the famous story of Valerius acquiring his *cognomen* (nickname) after a raven (*corvus*) helped him win a single combat with a Gallic champion in the 4th century BC. Livy 7.26 presents the story of Valerius Corvus, mentioned in lists of Roman heroes by Propertius (G31 line 64) and Ovid (*Fasti* 1.602).

K23 Elogium of Aemilius Paulus (Arretium)

Lucius Aemilius Paulus, son of Lucius, twice consul, censor, interrex, praetor, aedile; after the Ligurians had been subdued in his first consulship he celebrated a triumph; he was made consul for a second time by the people so that he might wage war with king Perseus; he destroyed the king's forces in the ten days in which he reached Macedonia, and he captured the king with his children.

[Inscr. It. 13.3.81]

Lucius Aemilius Paulus was consul in 182 and 181 BC. His victory at the battle of Pydna in 168 BC ended the Third Macedonian War.

K24 Elogium of Publius Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus Africanus

Varro writes that Scipio Aemilianus was presented with the siege crown in Africa when Manilius was consul [149 BC] for having led three cohorts to rescue three others. The deified Augustus inscribed this story under Scipio's statue in the forum of Augustus.

[Pliny, *Natural History* 22.13]

For the continuation of this passage, the award to Augustus of the siege crown, see H14.

K25 Elogium of Marius (Forum of Augustus)

Gaius Marius, son of Gaius, consul seven times, praetor, tribune of the people [...] without drawing lots, as consul he waged war with Jugurtha, king of Numidia, captured him, and celebrating a triumph during his second consulship ordered him to be led before his chariot. He was appointed consul for the 3rd time in his absence. When consul for the 4th time he destroyed the army of the Teutones. As consul for the 5th time he routed the Cimbri, and celebrated his second triumph over them and the Teutones. When the state was in turmoil from the rebellious acts of the people's tribune and of the praetor who had seized the Capitol by force, he liberated it when consul for the 6th time. After his 70th year he was expelled from his country by civil arms, but when

restored by arms he was made consul for the 7th time. Out of the spoils of war against the Cimbri and Teutones he built the temple to Honour and Courage as victor. In triumphal clothing, with patrician sandals [.....]

[Inscr. It. 13.3.17]

Gaius Marius (c. 157 – 86 BC): as his *elogium* shows, one of the leading generals and politicians of his period, but one of the most turbulent. He is mentioned as a Roman hero by Virgil, *Georgics* 2.168 (G10).

K26 Statues of Alexander the Great

It is also said that the tent of Alexander the Great was usually supported by statues, two of which have been dedicated in front of the Temple of Mars Ultor, and two in front of the *Regia* (Palace).

[Pliny, *Natural History* 34.48]

K27 Paintings of Alexander the Great by Apelles in the Forum of Augustus

At Rome Apelles' *Castor and Pollux with Victory* and *Alexander the Great* are much admired; likewise his portrait of *War Manacled*, with Alexander riding in triumph in his chariot. The deified Augustus, with remarkable self-restraint, set up both these paintings in the most crowded area of his forum, but in both cases the deified Claudius decided it would be more appropriate to remove Alexander's face and replace it with a likeness of Augustus.

[Pliny, *Natural History* 35.93–94]

Augustus liked to compare himself with Alexander the Great (see Index of Persons, Alexander).

K28 Base of a golden statue honouring Augustus, post-2 BC, Forum of Augustus

To Emperor Caesar Augustus, Father of the Fatherland. Further Hispania, Baetica, set this up because through his goodwill and constant care the province has been pacified. 100 pounds of gold.

[EJ 42 = *ILS* 103]

The dedication of the Forum of Augustus in 2 BC coincided with the award to Augustus of the title of *pater patriae*, which he regarded as the pinnacle of his achievements, according to the *Res Gestae* 35.1. Accordingly, statues set up in the complex laid special emphasis upon his new title, and celebrated him as the most significant extender of Rome's empire. This statue base dedicated by Baetica (also stressing his new title) may have supported a golden statue of the province personified or of Augustus himself, and may be related to Velleius' comment (2.39.2) that Augustus' forum gleamed with the inscriptions of the Spanish provinces and other peoples.

Mausoleum of Augustus

Among Octavian's earliest building projects, completed during his sixth consulship in 28 BC, the Mausoleum was, and remained, the largest tomb in the Roman world. In ground plan, the outer diameter measured c.89m and the outermost wall was around 12m high. Inside there are further five concentric concrete walls. The burial chamber consists of a circular hall around a central concrete pillar. The walls contained rectangular recesses for cinerary urns. The central pillar contains a square inner chamber, where Augustus' own urn may have been deposited. An epitaph for Octavia and Marcellus (J32) was found in the mausoleum.

Given the ruinous state of the structure at its core, the original elevation and external appearance of the building are uncertain. Strabo's description (K29) suggests a simple mound while the relative strength of the fourth wall has suggested a stepped profile, with a second drum emerging from the first. A simple earth mound recalls the shape of a tumulus of Etruscan type. However, the name *mausoleum* was used of it from the start; this, and a stepped profile of more or less monumental architectural character, might imply a straightforward rival to the great dynastic tombs of the Hellenistic kings and specifically the tomb of King Mausolus of Caria at Halicarnassus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Whichever type of reconstruction is favoured, the overall height is usually reckoned to have been about half the diameter, i.e. 40–45m.

Two bronze plaques bearing the text of his *Res Gestae* were affixed to either side of the entrance to the mausoleum in AD 14.