

THE *ARA PACIS* AND THE DATE OF AUGUSTUS'
RESTORATION OF THE *FLAMONIUM DIALE*:
A NOTE ON TAC. *ANN.* III 58, 2 AND DIO LIV 36, 1*

by

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ABSTRACT: Based on his analysis of the procession of the imperial family depicted on the southern side of the *Ara Pacis Augustae* and his interpretation of a passage from Cassius Dio (LIV 36, 1), G.W. BOWERSOCK (in his 1990 paper) challenges the emendation proposed by LACHMANN (*quinque* instead of *duobus*) in Tacitus (*Ann.* III 58, 2). Subsequently, he suggests that the appointment of a new *flamen Dialis* by Augustus occurred in 14 BC. Although BOWERSOCK's perspective finds favor among numerous Tacitean scholars, this paper contends that it lacks robust support. A more plausible scenario, as argued herein, is that Augustus reinstated the *flamonium Diale* in early 11 BCE.

The text of the Medicean manuscript of Tacitus (Codex Mediceus sive Laurentianus 68.1, 9th century, designated as *M* by the editors) for *Annales* III 58, 2 reads: “duobus et septuaginta annis post Cornelii Merulae caedem neminem suffectum, neque tamen cessavisse religiones”. This statement is embedded within an entreaty put forth by Ser. Cornelius Lentulus Maluginensis in 22 CE, seeking approval to draw lots for the province of Asia¹. Given his role as the *flamen Dialis* (priest of Jupiter), his life was circumscribed by a set of taboos, which included a ban from leaving Italy². Consequently, he had to convince Emperor Tiberius, who held the title of the *pontifex maximus*, that the

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¹ Cf. LEVICK ²1999: 77; on the speech of Servius Maluginensis, see the comprehensive analysis by BALBO 2007: 259–265 and 2008. Additionally, in relation to Augustus' religious reforms, cf. BEARD, NORTH, PRICE 1996: 131 f.; SCHEID 1999: 14; RIDLEY 2005: 295 f.; MUSIAL 2014: 103; SHANNON-HENDERSON 2019: 140–149.

² See Gell. *NA* X 15, 14, Plut. *Mor.* 274c with SCHEID 2012: 144, and cf. on the subject VANGGAARD 1988: 62–69, 88–104 (on restrictions on political life of the *flamines*); BEARD, NORTH, PRICE 1996: 28–29, 106; MARCO SIMÓN 1996: 103–110 (p. 106 on Maluginensis specifically);