

Deeds of the Divine Augustus

The deeds of the divine Augustus, by which he subjected the world to the authority of the Roman people, and the expenditures which he made for the republic and the Roman people.

In my nineteenth year I raised an army on my own initiative and at my own expense, with which I liberated the republic, which had been oppressed by the domination of a faction. The senate enrolled me into its number during the consulship of Gaius Pansa and Aulus Hirtius, and gave me *imperium* (the authority to command an army). The people in the same year voted me consul and triumvir.

[Here Augustus chooses to represent himself as an agent of the republic during the immediate aftermath of the assassination of his adoptive father, Julius Caesar. Cicero and others believed that they could manipulate the young Octavian (as we call him before he made himself emperor and took on the name Augustus), and used him against Antony, whom they viewed as the real potential tyrant. But Octavian soon switched sides, teaming up with Antony until the two of them had defeated the republican army of Brutus and Cassius at Philippi in 43. Octavian then ruled the west of the empire while Antony ruled the east, until the two of them fought at Actium in 31 and Antony (with his lover and ally Cleopatra) was defeated. Now Octavian was the sole ruler of the Roman world, and took on the title of Augustus. Most of the rest of the *Res Gestae* will refer to things Augustus did as emperor.]

The senate house and the temple of Apollo, the temple of the divine Julius, the Lupercal, the portico (covered walkway) at the Circus Flaminius, the temples on the Capitoline of Jupiter Fereter and Jupiter Tonans, the temple of Quirinus, the temples of Minerva and Royal Juno and Jupiter Liberator on the Aventine, the temple of the Lares at the top of the Sacred Way, the temple of the Penates on the Velian, the temple of Youth, the temple of the Great Mother on the Palatine—all of these I built.

The Capitol and the theatre of Pompey I rebuilt, without any mention of my name in the inscription. The aqueducts, which were in many places failing due to age, I restored. The forum of Julius Caesar and the basilica, which is between the temple of Castor and the temple of Saturn, I rebuilt.

Three times I presented gladiatorial games, at which games around 10,000 men fought it out.

I presented hunts of African beasts in the circus, in the forum, or in the amphitheaters twenty-six times, in which around 3,500 beasts were destroyed.