

Cassius Dio, the Senate, and the Third Century.

Greek and Roman Pasts in the Long Second Century: The Intellectual Climate of Cassius Dio.

Graham Andrews, University of Cambridge; ga278@cam.ac.uk.

1. A Trial: 77[76].8.4-6; 77[76].9.2.

καὶ ἐθάρσει μὲν οὐδεὶς πλὴν τῶν πάνυ κομώντων, πάντες δὲ τοὺς τοιούτους περιεβλέπομεν, καὶ ἦν θροῦς ‘ὁ δεῖνά ἐστιν.’ ‘οὐκ, ἀλλ’ ὁ δεῖνα.’ οὐκ ἀποκρύψομαι τὸ τότε μοι συμβάν, εἰ καὶ γελοιότατόν ἐστιν: τοσαύτη γὰρ ἀμηχανία συνεσχέθη ὥστε καὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς τὰς τρίχας τῇ χειρὶ ζητῆσαι. [5] τὸ δ’ αὐτὸ τοῦτο καὶ ἕτεροι πολλοὶ ἔπαθον. καὶ πάνυ γε ἐς τοὺς φαλακροειδεῖς ἀφεωρῶμεν ὡς καὶ ἐς ἐκείνους τὸν ἑαυτῶν κίνδυνον ἀπωθούμενοι, πρὶν δὴ προσανεγνώσθη ὅτι ἄρα περιπόρφυρον ἱμάτιον ὁ φαλακρὸς ἐκεῖνος εἶχε. [6] λεχθέντος γὰρ τούτου πρὸς Βαίβιον Μαρκελλῖνον ἀπείδομεν: ἡγορανομήκει γὰρ τότε καὶ ἦν φαλακρότατος.

Nobody was confident, apart from those who had a lot of hair, but we all looked around at [the bald men], and murmured, ‘It’s him!’ ‘No, it’s him!’ I won’t hide what happened to me at that time, even if it is completely ridiculous. I was overcome with such helplessness that I even checked for the hair on my head with my hand. And many other people experienced the same thing. We looked carefully around at those who were going bald, as if driving our own danger onto them, until it was revealed that that bald man had a purple-bordered toga. When this was announced we turned to look at Baebius Marcellinus, who had been aedile at the time and was completely bald.

2. Dio and Didius Julianus: 74[73].12.2.

ἡμεῖς δὲ πυνθανόμενοι ταῦτα, ὡς που ἐκάστῳ διηγέλλετο, ἐφοβούμεθα μὲν τὸν Ἰουλιανὸν καὶ τοὺς στρατιώτας καὶ μάλιστα ὅσοι τι ἢ πρὸς τὸν Περτίνακα ἐπιτήδειον ... καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ εἷς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἦν, ἐπειδὴ ὑπὸ τε τοῦ Περτίνακος τά τε ἄλλα ἐτετιμήμην καὶ στρατηγὸς ἀπεδεδείγμην, καὶ ἐκεῖνον πολλὰ πολλάκις ἐν δίκαις συναγορεύων τισὶν ἀδικοῦντα ἐπεδεδείχην.

When we found out this out, wherever each of us was informed, we were afraid of Julianus and the soldiers, especially those who [had done] anything which assisted Pertinax. Indeed, I was one of that number, since I was granted many honours by Pertinax, including being appointed praetor, and when advocating for people in court I had often shown Julianus to be guilty of many things.

3. Maecenas on Soldiers: 52.25.7.

τούτων μὲν γὰρ τῶν καὶ φορμοφορησάντων καὶ λαρκοφορησάντων καὶ αἰσχρὸν καὶ ἐπονείδιστόν ἐστιν ἐν τῷ βουλευτικῷ τινὰς ἐξετάζεσθαι: ἐκ δὲ δὴ τῶν ἀπ’ ἀρχῆς ἑκατονταρχισάντων οὐδὲν κωλύει τοὺς ἐλλογιμωτάτους αὐτοῦ μεταλαμβάνειν.

For it is both a shame and a reproach that men of this sort, who have carried faggots and charcoal, should be found on the roll of the senate; but in the case of knights who began their service with the rank of centurion, there is nothing to prevent the most notable of them from belonging to the senate. (Cary 1914-27 VI: 139-41)

4. Comazon: 80[79].3.5-4.2

στρατευόμενον γάρ ποτε αὐτὸν ἐν Θράκῃ καὶ κακουργήσαντά τι ἐς τοὺς τριηρίτας ἀπέώσατο. [4.1] τοιοῦτος γάρ τις ὁ Κωμάζων ὢν καὶ τοῦτο τοῦνομα ἔκ τε μίμων καὶ γελωτοποιίας ἔχων τῶν τε δορυφόρων ἤρξεν ἐν μηδεμιᾷ τὸ παράπαν ἐπιτροπείᾳ ἢ καὶ προστασίᾳ τινὶ πλὴν τῆς τοῦ στρατοπέδου ἐξετασθείς, [2] καὶ τὰς τιμὰς τὰς ὑπατικὰς ἔλαβεν, καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο καὶ ὑπάτευσεν καὶ ἐπολιάρχησεν, οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ δεύτερον καὶ τρίτον, ὃ μηδενὶ πώποτε ἄλλω ὑπῆρξεν: ὅθεν πού καὶ τοῦτ' ἐν τοῖς παρανομοτάτοις ἐξαριθμῆσεται.

5. Adventus: 79[78].14.1, 14.4.

ταῦτά τε οὖν αὐτοῦ πολλοὶ ἠτιῶντο, καὶ ὅτι καὶ τὸν Ἄδουεντον ἐν τοῖς διόπταις τε καὶ ἐρευνηταῖς μεμισθοφορηκότα, καὶ τὴν ἐν αὐτοῖς τάξιν λειοπότα ἔς τε τοὺς γραμματοφόρους τελέσαντα καὶ πρόκριτον ἀποδειχθέντα καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο ἐς ἐπιτρόπευσιν προαχθέντα, καὶ βουλευτὴν καὶ συνύπατον καὶ πολίαρχον, μήθ' ὄραν ὑπὸ γήρωσ μήτ' ἀναγιγνώσκειν ὑπ' ἀπαιδευσίας μήτε πράττειν τι ὑπ' ἀπειρίας δυνάμενον, ἀπέφηνεν.

ταῦτα γὰρ περὶ αὐτὸν ὥσπερ τὰ καθ' ἑαυτόν, ὅτι τὴν αὐτοκράτορα ἀρχὴν ἱππεύων ἔτι ἠρπάκει, ἐπηλυγασόμενος ἔπραξεν.

6. Pertinax: 74[73].3.1.

ἦν δὲ ὁ Περτίναξ Λίγυς ἐξ Ἄλβης Πομπηίας, πατρὸς οὐκ εὐγενοῦς, γράμματα ὅσον ἀποζῆν ἐξ αὐτῶν ἠσκημένος, καὶ κατὰ τοῦτο καὶ τῷ Πομπηϊανῷ τῷ Κλαυδίῳ συνεγεγόνει, καὶ δι' αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἱππεῦσι χιλιαρχήσας ἐς τοῦτο προεχώρησεν ὥστε καὶ ἐκείνου αὐτοῦ ἀνταρχῆσαι.

[Attalus] had sent [Comazon] to the galleys for some misdeed while he was serving in the army in Thrace. Though Comazon was such a man and had a name belonging to mimes and buffoonery, he commanded the Praetorians, despite having no previous responsibility or command at all, except being commander of the camp, and was given consular rank. After this he was also made consul and urban prefect, not only once but twice and a third time, something granted to no one else – for this reason it will be counted among the most unlawful events.

Many people censured him for these things, and for the following: Adventus had served as a mercenary among the spies and inspectors, and after leaving their ranks became a courier, and was appointed their leader, and afterwards was promoted to procurator. [Macrinus] made him a senator and his co-consul and the urban prefect, even though he could not see because of his old age, nor understand anything because of his lack of education, nor do anything because of his ignorance.

He did the things concerning [Adventus] in order to cover up the fact that he himself had stolen imperial power while still an equestrian.

Pertinax was a Ligurian from Alba Pompeia, whose father was not a noble; he was trained in letters sufficiently well to make a living from it. Through this he became acquainted with Claudius Pompeianus, and through him he became a tribune in the cavalry, and rose to a position where he even ruled over that same man.