

Coins of Valerius Gratus and Pontius Pilate

The Roman Prefects of Judea under Tiberius were:

- Annius Rufus (who did not issue any coins) whom Tiberius replaced upon Augustus' death with
- Valerius Gratus (Prefect 14-26 C.E.) was Tiberius' first appointment to Judea, and then
- Pontius Pilate (Prefect 26-36 C.E.), whom Vitellius replaced with Marcellus just prior to Tiberius' death.

Dates on coins minted by Gratus and Pilate reconcile with Years of Tiberius when reckoned factually from November of 12 C.E. (subsequent to his joint governance with Augustus), then further reckoned factually from September of 14 C.E. (subsequent to being named head of state after Augustus' death) through to Tiberius' death in March of 37 C.E. These dates also synchronize with the baptism of Messiah Yeshua in 26 C.E. ("the fifteenth year of Tiberius when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea" as recorded by Luke) and Julia Augusta's death in 29 C.E.

It must be noted, there exist two double-dated coins which contradict the analysis below, and date Tiberius' reign as beginning 14 C.E. with Augustus' death. At present, these double dated coins aren't reconciled with the analysis below, and further research is being done on them and how Actian years are reckoned and synchronizations with other eras. These coins are:

- Silanus Antioch RPC 4270 which double dates Tiberius' 1st year to the Actian 45th year
- Silanus Selucia RPC 4330 which double dates Tiberius' 3rd year to the Actian 47th year

The reconciliation and synchronisms of coins minted by Gratus and Pilate are summarized in the following table, and further analyzed and developed below.

	Augustus' death ↓			Jesus' baptism ↓															↓ crucifixion		
Mint year AD	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Tiberius		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Gratus			LB	LF	LA	LE						LIA									
Pilate																	LIQ	LIZ	LIH		
																					↑ Julia's death

Valerius Gratus was Prefect of Judea for 11 years having been appointed by Tiberius immediately after Augustus' death. He minted several coins in Judea honoring Tiberius and Julia Augusta (Tiberius' mother and Augustus' wife and formerly known as Livia Drusilla).

Pontius Pilate was Prefect of Judea for 10 years having been appointed by Tiberius to replace Gratus. It was Pontius Pilate who conducted the Roman trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Pilate minted three coins in Judea honoring Tiberius, but the last two coins eliminated the honorific for Julia Augusta subsequent to her death. Pilate was ordered home by Vitellius to answer to Tiberius for accusations of murder brought by Samaritans, but Pilate arrived in Rome just after Tiberius' death on March 16th of 37 C.E.

The numismatic evidence of Pilate's coins is more informative and is covered first, then the chronological evidence of coins minted by both Gratus and Pilate is summarized and analyzed.

Greek date inscriptions and numismatic evidence:

At the numismatist web site, [NumismaLink](#), is linked a four-part article by Professor Jean-Philippe Fontanille [The Coins of Pontius Pilate](#) wherein he states:

"1 - The temporal proximity : Most modern experts agree in recognizing that the year now designated 30 C.E. marked the trial and the death of Jesus. Given that time-frame, Pilate's coins were minted in 29, 30 and 31 C.E."

Professor Jean-Philippe Fontanille, "[The Coins of Pontius Pilate](#)", www.numismalink.com

However, while there is agreement the year of crucifixion is 30 C.E., the dates on the coin faces are *relative* to "Years of Tiberius". Citing again from Fontanille, [The Coins of Pontius Pilate](#):

"The notation of dates uses a code invented by the Greeks whereby each letter of the alphabet was assigned a number. This code would be used again in Judaism under the name of Gematria. The system is simple : the first ten letters of the alphabet are linked to units (1,2,3...), the following ten letters to tens (10,20,30...) and the four remaining letters to the first four hundreds. The "L" is an abbreviation meaning "year". Tiberius became emperor on September 17 of year 14 C.E, so we have :

LIS = Year 29 CE * LIZ = Year 30 CE * LIH = Year 31 CE

The legends on Pontius Pilate's coins are written in Greek. Judea, governed by the Ptolemy dynasty (301 to 198 B.C.E) then by the Syrians until 63 B.C.E, came under the same powerful influence of the Hellenic culture which touched the other territories of the ancient Persian Empire won by Alexander the Great. In spite of a certain amount of resistance, this Hellenistic heritage eventually crept into every aspect of daily life. Apart from the dates, the texts on Pilate's coinage consisted of only three different words : -

TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC (Of Tiberius Emperor) on all three coins; - IOYLIA KAICAPOC (Empress Julia) added to the coin of year 29."

ibid.

Professor Fontanille alludes to a Greek date encoding algorithm using the 'first ten, following ten and four remaining letters' (sum of 24 letters total), but doesn't actually provide enough detail to verify how dates on Pilate's coins actually correspond. In fact, the *classic* Greek alphabet with 24 letters *cannot* be mapped as Fontanille seems to imply.

However, the *ancient* Greek alphabet had 27 letters (not 24 as Fontanille implies). The Greek Number System used the first nine letters as symbols for numbers 1-9; the second nine letters as symbols for tens (e.g. 10, 20, 30, etc. through 90); and the last nine letters as symbols for hundreds (e.g. 100, 200, 300, etc. through 900). Note that "zero" did not have a letter correspondence. Here then is a table mapping the 27 *ancient* Greek letters to numbers, reading left-to-right and then next row down:

	alpha	beta	gamma	delta	epsilon	digamma	zeta	eta	theta
units	A	B	Γ	Δ	E	F	Z	H	Θ
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
tens	iota	kappa	lambda	mu	nu	ksi	omicron	pi	koppa
	I	K	Λ	M	N	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ϟ
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
hundreds	rho	sigma	tau	upsilon	phi	chi	psi	omega	san
	P	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω	Ϟ
	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900

Note, the letters "digamma", "koppa", and "san" are *archaic*, and when removed yield the *classic* Greek alphabet of 24 letters.

Regarding dates, contrary to what the above table would dictate when encoding the number "6", the Greek letter "Ϛ" (stigma) which takes on the shape of an "S" was actually struck on coins instead of the the archaic Greek letter "F" (digamma).

The point of the foregoing is simply to confirm the date encoding found on both Gratus' and Pilate's coins, that being:

"L" is an abbreviation always meaning "year"

"A" is the 1st ancient Greek letter "alpha" which indicates "1"

"B" is the 2nd ancient Greek letter "beta" which indicates "2"

"Γ" is the 3rd ancient Greek letter "gamma" which indicates "3"

"Δ" is the 4th ancient Greek letter "delta" which indicates "4"
"Ε" is the 5th ancient Greek letter "epsilon" which indicates "5"
"Ϛ" is "stigma" used in place of the 6th ancient Greek letter "digamma" which indicates "6"
"Ζ" is the 7th ancient Greek letter "zeta" which indicates "7"
"Η" is the 8th ancient Greek letter "eta" which indicates "8"
"Ι" is the 10th ancient Greek letter "iota" which indicates "10"

Hence, the various date encoding combinations are, literally:

"LB" (LB) means "year" two
"LΓ" (LΓ) means "year" three
"LΔ" (LD) means "year" four
"LE" (LE) means "year" five
"LIA" (LIA) means "year" ten + one
"LIϚ" (LIS) means "year" ten + six
"LIZ" (LIZ) means "year" ten + seven
"LIH" (LIH) means "year" ten + eight

Numismatists occasionally have difficulty recognizing which date was intended to be struck on degraded coins. For example, some varieties have a retrograde (backwards) "Z" for "zeta" meaning "7" which can sometimes be confused with "Ϛ" for "stigma" meaning "6". One would also expect that "A" and "Δ" could be mistaken for each other, though perhaps the context prevents this (no "year one" coins issued, "A" is only used for "year ten + one" coins). Other varietal differences include the inscription spellings for Tiberius, Emperor or Caesar, and Julia, as well as different designs and placement of dates and descriptions. Then too are errors when any individual coin was struck resulting from the dies being off center or not level, and metal alloy composition inconsistencies causing different kinds and rates of degradation - quality control seemed to be quite a problem.

Here then are samples of descriptions used by numismatists for the varieties of coins minted by Gratus and Pilate. These are composite descriptions collected over time from various web sites trading such coins, and as these sites describe their *current inventory*, links to specific coins then for sale would quickly become invalid. However, with the descriptions below are provided links to saved images wherein the Greek encoded date as discussed above is reasonably (or barely in some cases) legible: They are listed in order of their Hendin catalog number:

Coins of Valerius Gratus:

[Hendin 639](#): Judaea, Procurators. Valerius Gratus. Year 2 (15 C.E.). Æ Prutah. KAI/CAP in two lines within wreath / Crossed cornucopias, TIB above, LB between.

Hendin 641: F, 1.252g, 15.5mm, 180°, Caesarea mint, obverse KAI/CAP within a wreath; reverse TIB (Tiberius), two crossed cornucopia with caduceus between them, L - Γ (= year 3) across fields; very scarce;

[Hendin 641](#): Judaea, Valerius Gratus, Æ prutah, 2.01g, 16.9mm, 135°, Caesarea mint, 16 C.E.; obverse KAICAP (Caesar) within wreath; reverse TIBEIPOY, two crossed cornucopia with caduceus between them, L - Γ in outer fields; nice green patina; rare;

Hendin 642: Judaea, Valerius Gratus, Prefect Under Tiberius, AE Prutah. Year 3 = 16 C.E. IOVΛIA (referring to Julia, mother of Tiberius) in wreath / three lilies in bloom flanked by date L-Γ.

Hendin 643: Judaea, Valerius Gratus, Æ prutah. IOYLIA, Vine leaf and small bunch of grapes / Narrow-necked amphora with scroll handles, [L D] at sides.

Hendin 644: Valerius Gratus, procurator of Judea under Tiberius AE Prutah. Struck 17 C.E. Vine leaf on tendril / Kantharos.

[Hendin 645](#), Valerius Gratus - Prefect under Tiberius 15-26 C.E., Caesarea mint, 17 C.E.; obverse TIB / KAI/CAP (Tiberius Caesar) in wreath tied at base with an X; reverse palm branch flanked by IOY-ΛIA (Julia) and date L - Δ (= year 4 = 17 C.E.);

[Hendin 646](#): Judaea, Valerius Gratus, AE Prutah. Year 5 = 18 AD. TIB KAI CAP in a wreath / Palm branch curves to right, IOY-ΛIA and date L-E at sides.

[Hendin 646v](#): Valerius Gratus, Prefect Under Tiberius, AE Prutah. TIB KAI CAP (Tiberius Caesar) in wreath tied at base with an X / Palm branch curved to r., flanked by inscription & date (LE = Year 5 = 18 C.E.).

[Hendin 647](#): Judaea, under Roman Procurator Valerius Gratus, under Tiberius, Æ Prutah. Year 11 (24 C.E.). IOV-ΛIA (for Julia) L-IA (the date) either side of palm branch / TIB KAI CAP, three lines in wreath.

Note that all Gratus' coins designate Tiberius as "TIB" or "TIBEPIOY" and "KAICAP" and a few include the honorific for Julia Augusta including the last coin dated as Tiberius 11th year.

Coins of Pontius Pilate:

[Hendin 648](#), Caesarea mint, 2.442g, 16.8mm, 270°, 29 C.E.; obverse IOYLIA KAICAPOC, three bound heads of barley, the outer two heads drooping; reverse TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC (of Tiberius Caesar) and date LIϚ (= year 16 = 29 C.E.) surrounding simpulum (libation ladle);

[Hendin 649](#) AE Prutah. Year 17 of Tiberius = 30 C.E. TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC, lituus (Augur's staff) / date LIZ within wreath. SNG ANS 373, AJC II 23.

[Hendin 650](#) 26 - 36 C.E. AE Prutah. 2.20 grams. Obverse: TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC. Lituus (pagan religious implement); Reverse: Date within wreath (LIH = Year 18 = 31 C.E.)

Note that all Pilate's coins again designate Tiberius as "TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC" (Of Tiberius Emperor) but only the first coin dated as Tiberius 16th year includes the honorific for Julia Augusta "IOYLIA KAICAPOC" (Of Julia Empress).

Because the Greek text on all Gratus and Pilate coinage is "TIB" or "TIBEPIOY" and "KAICAP" (Tiberius Caesar) or "TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC" (Of Tiberius Emperor), they all obviously date to "Years of Tiberius" (as opposed to anyone else).

The mistakes made by numismatists (as echoed by Fontinille) is to assume the 16th, 17th, and 18th years of Tiberius synchronize with 29, 30, and 31 C.E. respectively, and then reckon the years of Tiberius to be regnal accession years beginning with Augustus' death to justify that synchronization. But this ignores and fails to reconcile with Christ's baptism in A.D. 26 in Tiberius' 15th year, Christ's crucifixion in A.D. 30 after a 3.5 year ministry in Tiberius' 18th year, and further implies Tiberius' 1st regnal year was 14 C.E. These synchronism failures are **orange-highlighted** in the table below:

Mint year AD	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Tiberius			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Gratus				LB	LF	LA	LE						LIA								
Pilate																			LIϚ	LIZ	LIH

Even by regnal accession-year reckoning the further problem is Tiberius' *accession* year would be 14 C.E. when Augustus *died* and thus

Tiberius' 1st *regnal* year would consequently begin January 15 C.E., not in 14 C.E. as the numismatists presume.

Nor does a *factual* reckoning from Augustus' death (wherein Tiberius' 1st year would extend from Aug of 14 C.E. through July of 15 C.E.) suffice because it fails to reconcile Tiberius' years with the baptism and crucifixion of Messiah Yeshua.

Reconciled alignment of Tiberius' years with Prefect coins and Yeshua's ministry

So, applying now the correct *factual* reckoning for "Years of Tiberius" beginning in 12 C.E. as established by analyzing the historical accounts of Seutonius, Tacitus, and Dio it is thus demonstrated that coins dated as shown were actually minted:

"LB" in 14 C.E. - Tiberius' 2nd year, Gratus' 1st year (viewable at [Hendin 639](#))

"LΓ" in 15 C.E. - Tiberius' 3rd year, some varieties with "Julia" (viewable at [Hendin 641](#))

"LΔ" in 16 C.E. - Tiberius' 4th year, some varieties with "Julia" (viewable at [Hendin 645](#))

"LE" in 17 C.E. - Tiberius' 5th year, some varieties with "Julia" (viewable at [Hendin 646](#))

"LIA" in 23 C.E. - Tiberius' 11th year, with "Julia" (viewable at [Hendin 647](#))

"LIϚ" in 28 C.E. - Tiberius' 16th year, Pilate's 2nd year, with "Empress Julia" (viewable at [Hendin 648](#))

"LIZ" in 29 C.E. - Tiberius' 17th year, Pilate's 3rd year (viewable at [Hendin 649](#))

"LIH" in 30 C.E. - Tiberius' 18th year, Pilate's 4th year (viewable at [Hendin 650](#))

This analysis of Gratus' and Pilate's coins demonstrates:

1. The dates on the coins (and thus their mint years) are all *relative* to the reckoning of "Years of Tiberius" and not inscribed with an absolute Julian year. Consequently, to establish a Julian mint date requires a correct conversion from "Years of Tiberius" to Julian, i.e., a correct reckoning of when "Years of Tiberius" *began*.
2. When "Years of Tiberius" are reckoned as factual years beginning in A.D. 12, the date of Gratus' 1st coin ("LB") synchronizes with A.D. 14 (the year of Augustus' death and Tiberius' 2nd year and Gratus 1st year as Prefect), while the dates of the coins (LIS, LIZ and LIH) synchronize

Due to HTML formatting constraints, the above table gives the *appearance* that factual "Years of Tiberius" offset exactly by half a Julian year (6 months), but a Tiberius' factual year initially ran from his inauguration in November of A.D. 12 following the consuls having made Tiberius joint governor with Augustus (October 23rd) through to its anniversary the following year until 14 C.E.; thereafter, Tiberius' factual year ran from Senate confirmation of his being head of state in September of A.D. 14 (consequent to Augustus' death), i.e. for purposes of synchronisms with coins of Gratus and Pilate, a factual year of Tiberius overlaps the last 4 months of the prior Julian year and first 8 months of the next Julian year.

So, in theory, using a factual reckoning from Tiberius' joint governance with Augustus allows all the coins minted by Gratus and Pilate to reconcile with Years of Tiberius, and illuminates four synchronisms:

1. Gratus' initial minting of the "LB" coin in his 1st year as Prefect of Judea subsequent to Augustus' death, in Tiberius 2nd year
2. Baptism of Jesus Christ in A.D. 26, in Tiberius' 15th year
3. Pilate's removal of Julia's honorific from coins minted subsequent to her death in A.D. 29, Tiberius' 17th year.
4. Crucifixion of Jesus Christ in A.D. 30 by Pontius Pilate, in Tiberius' 18th year

In application, this bears out as demonstrated in the Tiberius timeline, with one notable anomaly that it requires Gratus to be appointed by Tiberius immediately upon Augustus' death on August 19th (as Josephus indeed reports), and get to Judea and begin production of the commemorative LB coin as Tiberius' 2nd factual year elapsed in September or October. Possibly Tiberius' LB coin was begun earlier in Tiberius' 2nd year by Annius Rufus but Gratus (having replaced him) received the credit, or Gratus may have begun striking the LB coin late in Tiberius' 2nd year and continued to strike more of them early into Tiberius' 3rd year as well until Tiberius commissioned the LF coin later in his 3rd year. This timing of Gratus striking the LB coin late in Tiberius' 2nd factual year bears further research and scrutiny.

Death of Julia Augusta:

As has been noted by the historians' accounts of Tiberius' 17th year regarding the death in 29 C.E. of Julia Augusta (Livia Drusilla, Tiberius' mother and Augustus' wife), Tiberius loathed her and took many steps to deny her various posthumous honorifics, which seemingly included removing her name from coins subsequently minted by Pilate.

The question arises, did Julia Augusta (Livia Drusilla) actually die early enough in 29 C.E. that there was enough time for Tiberius to order the "Empress Julia" honorific to be removed from coins newly minted in 29 C.E.?

The historical evidence supports that Livia Drusilla (Julia Augusta) died in the first half of A.D. 29, prior to July 6 and possibly as early as in January.

Note carefully, however, an erroneous date of "September 28" for the death of Livia began to appear in internet blog posts in 2012 and was even echoed in a mistaken tweet from the British Museum in 2015. There is no evidence substantiating such an assertion and nowhere on the British Museum website is Livia's death dated as "September 28".

Livia Drusilla was born between January 28 and January 30 of either 59 or 58 B.C.E. The dating is uncertain because the year of her birth is before the Julian calendar was adopted when January didn't have 31 days. Anthony Barrett explains:

Both Tacitus and Dio place [Livia's] death securely in A.D. 29. Tacitus limits himself to the observation that by then she had lived into extreme old age, *aetate extrema*, but Dio adds the more precise and useful information that at the time of she had lived for eighty-six years: ἑξ καὶ ὀγδοήκοντα ἔτη ζήσασα.¹

1 Tac. *Ann.* 5.1.1; Dio. 58.2.1 (Xiphilinus); Zonaras' summary is slightly different.

[p. 630]

Anthony A. Barrett, "[The Year of Livia's Birth](#)", *The Classical Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (1999), pp. 630-632

The month and day of Livia's birth are established by inscriptions of the post-Julian period as a.d. III Kal. Febr., usually expressed as 30 January in the modern calendar system.³

3 *AFA* (Henzen) XXXIV (A.D. 27), XLIII (A.D. 38). Using a somewhat different logic, D. Kienast, *Römische Kaisertabelle* (Darmstadt, 1990), 83 defines Livia's birthday as 28 January. There is in fact no truly satisfactory way of expressing Livia's birth in the modern calendar, since in the pre-Julian period January had only twenty-nine days.

[p. 631]

Anthony A. Barrett, *ibid.*

Barrett further points out that Livia's death must have been in the first half of 29 C.E.

One of the *consules ordinarii* for 29 was C. Fufius Geminus. Tacitus makes it quite clear that Fufius was still in office when Livia died, since Tiberius criticized him, as consul, in the letter that the emperor wrote to the senate excusing his own absence from his mother's funeral.⁶ This cuts down the odds

considerably, since we could normally expect Fufius and his colleague L. Rubellius Geminus to have vacated office by no later than 30 June, to be replaced by the suffectus for that year, L. Nonius Asprenas and A. Plautius. That this did in fact happen is confirmed by inscriptional evidence that the suffectus were in office by no later than 6 July.⁷ Thus Livia's death came in the first rather than the second half of the year. One might go further. Tacitus mentions the death as the very first item of A.D. 29 (Dio at this point survives only in epitomes).

⁷ *ILS* 6124; *CIL* IV.15555

[N.B. the CIL catalogue no. is actually 1555. Barrett's cite of 15555 is an error.]

[pp. 631-632]

Anthony A. Barrett, *ibid.*

Because L. Nonius Asprenas and A. Plautius became suffect consuls on or before July 6th of 29 C.E., that is evidence that C. Fufius Geminus and his colleague L. Rubellius Geminus vacated their consular office prior to July 6th, and since Livia Drusilla is reported by Tacitus to have died during the consular year of Rubellius and Fufius, and because Livia Drusilla's birth year could be either 59 or 58 B.C.E. but died at age 86, it follows that Livia Drusilla died in 29 C.E. either *before her 87th birthday* of January 30th or *after her 86th birthday* of January 30th and before July 6.

The inscription evidence for Livia's death in the first half of 29 C.E. as cited by Barrett is detailed below in footnotes for:

Tacitus *Ann.* 5.1.1; [A](#)

Evidence that Livia died in the consular year of C. Fufius Geminus and L. Rubellius Geminus.

Cassius Dio 58.2.1 [B](#)


Evidence that Livia died at age 86.

Acta Fratrum Arvalium (Henzen) XXXIV (A.D. 27) [C](#)

Evidence that Livia's 86th birthday would have fallen January 28th to 30th of 29 C.E.

ILS 6124 [D](#)

Evidence that suffect consuls L. Nonius Asprenas and A. Plautius replaced ordinary consuls C. Fufius Geminus and L. Rubellius Geminus in 29 C.E.

CIL IV.1555 

Evidence that suffect consuls L. Nonius Asprenas and A. Plautius took office on July 6th or earlier, 29 C.E.

A Tac. *Ann.* V.1.1

I. IN the consulship of Rubellius and Fufius, both of whom had the surname Geminus, died in an advanced old age Julia Augusta.

Cornelius Tacitus, [The Annals, Book V.1](#)
Alfred John Church, William Jackson Brodribb, Ed.

B Dio 58.2

2 At this time also Livia passed away at the age of eighty-six.

Cassius Dio, [Roman History, Book LVIII.2](#)
Loeb Classical Library Vol VII, (1924)

C AFA (Henzen) XXXIV (A.D. 27)

(A.D. 27)
adfuerunt us.
Ian. 30 III k(alendas) Febr(uarias) in Capitolio collegi
fratrum Arvalium immolavit ob natalem Iuliae Augustae Iovi o(ptimo) m(aximo) bovem marem ¹).

e 1) cf. a. 38 c, 2 seqq. et Relazione p. 8. Cetera minus certa sunt, videtur tamen mentio fieri magisterii quarti imperatoris.

[p. XXXIV]

Wilhelm Henzen, [Acta Fratrum Arvalium quae supersunt](#) (1874)

An approximate translation assisted by Google translate is:

30 of January in the Capitol gathered
Brethren Arvalium slaughtered (because of the birthday of Julia Augusta) to
Jupiter [the] greatest and best young bull.

"kalendas" means 'first day of the month' and the Roman numerals preceding kalendas means '3 days before the first day of the month', i.e. 3 days before the first day of February. But prior to the Julian Calendar (Livia Drusilla being

born 59 or 58 B.C.E.), January only had 29 days. By convention, III Kal. Feb. is interpreted to mean January 30.

D ILS 6124

6124

suf.¹ A. Plautius, L. Nonius.
T. Salvius Parianus, A. Terentius Uvir.;
Sex. Aponius Proculus, Q. Nolcennius aed.

1) Consules suffectos fuisse anno p. Chr. 29 ex hac tabula et ex fastis fratrum Arvalium (C. I. L. I ed. 2 p. 74) perspicitur.

[p. 541]

Hermannus Dessau, *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*, Vol II. Pars I.
Berolini Apud Weidmannos (1892)

<https://archive.org/details/inscriptioneslat21dessuoft>

An approximate translation assisted by Google translate is:

1) Suffect consules had been replaced 29 years after Christ from this board and from the calendar Brethren Arvalium (C.I.L 1. ed. 2, p. 74) categories.]

E C.I.L. IV.1555

[N.B. the C.I.L. catalogue no. is actually 1555. Barrett's cite of 15555 is an error.]

1555 sub 1554 eadem manu spatium 0,09 m.; litterae 1555 v. 1 NIO sub litteris n. 1554 COR positae sunt).

L • NONIO ASPRENATE

sic A • PLOTIO CoS ASSELLVS NATVS suff. a. p. Chr. 29

sic PRIDIE NONAS • CAPRATINAS

Tab. XV 2 ex mea delineatione. — Avellino *B. N.* 1846 p. 10 (male v. 2 in duos diviso);

Mommsenus in schedis; Garrucci IV 3, qui tamen non delineatam exhibet ac fortasse ne descriptam quidem, sed collatam cum exemplo Avelliniano edito.

2 COSS egregio errore Garr.; lineam enim illam, quam S alteram esse putat, ipse opinor addidit, cum Avellini falsam versuum distributionem corrigeret. — 3 nota capratinas scriptum pro caprotinas.

[p. 99]

Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum vol. IV Inscriptiones parietariae Pompeianae Herculenses Stabianae.
Edid. C. Zangemeister, R. Schoene. 1871

<https://archive.org/details/inscriptionspari00zang/>

An approximate translation assisted by Google translate is:

L. Nonius Asprenas

- ? A. Plautius became suffect consules 29 years after Christ
- ? on the day before Nonas Capratinas

"CoS" is a Latin abbreviation for Roman Consul ("CoSS" being the plural "consules").

Consules ordinarius ("ordinary consuls") are elected to start a year, which year is then named after those consuls. During the year, if an ordinary consul can not complete his term, a suffect consul is elected to replace the ordinary consul and serve out his term.

"a. p. Chr." is a Latin abbreviation for "anno post Christum natum" meaning "after the birth of Christ".

Latin "pridie" means "the day before". "Nonas Capratinas" (Nonae Capratinae) was a Roman festival celebrated on the 7th of Quintillis (5th month of the Roman calendar which began in March) therefore on July 7th. Hence "pridie Nonas Capratinus" is July 6.