

day his *dies imperii* (Tacitus, *Hist.* 2.79) rather than December 21, when the senate finally ratified the act. A month or so later Vespasian himself came to Egypt (Dio 64.9) and was greeted by the Alexandrians as he entered the Hippodrome by the Canopic Gate. The present document is an account, perhaps a 'worked-up literary account', of this moment, the crowd shouting his name and linking it with imperial titles. For a discussion of these imperial acclamations in imperial history see C. Roueché in *JRS* 74 (1984) 181ff.

2 Perhaps '[gave a loud | shout:]', Jouguet. See J. Colin, *Les Villes libres de l'Orient gréco-romain et l'envoi au supplice par acclamations populaires* (Brussels 1965) Ch. 4.

3 The 'son of Ammon' (cf. line 16) is a reference to Alexander the Great in his capacity as pharaoh of Egypt. The title applied to Vespasian, 'rising up [forever (or to the gods)]' (various editors), is equivalent to the recognition of Vespasian as ruler.

4 Perhaps '[the new] Sar[apis]' as proposed by A. D. Nock in *JRS* 47 (1957) 118 n. 28 (Arthur Darby Nock, *Essays on Religion and the Ancient World* (ed. Z. Stewart), Vol. II (Harvard 1972) 838 n. 28).

## 82 Law on the imperial powers of Vespasian. AD 69–70.

Bronze tablet, probably the second in a series of two, complete on all sides, Rome. [Latin]

*CIL* VI 930; *ILS* 244; Bruns<sup>7</sup> 56; *FIRA* I 15; McCrum–Woodhead, \**Documents* 1; Gordon, *Epigraphy* 46 (+ photograph).

H. Last in *CAH* 11.404–6; P. A. Brunt in *JRS* 67 (1977) 95–116.

[--- and that]<sup>1</sup> he (Vespasian) shall be permitted to make a [---] or a treaty with whom he wishes, just as permission was given to the deified Augustus, | to Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus, and to Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus,<sup>2</sup> | and that he shall be permitted to hold a meeting of the senate, to make and refer a matter to it, | and to make senatorial decrees by referring a matter to it and by  
5 division (of members) for the vote, || just as permission was given to the deified Augustus, to Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus, and to Tiberius Claudius Caesar | Augustus Germanicus; *vv* |

And that, when in accordance with his wish or authority or order or command | or in his presence a meeting of the senate is held, the right of all transactions | shall be held to be and be considered just as if the senate meeting had been called and held in accordance with a law;  
10 || and that whatever magistrates seeking power, military and civil authority, or superintendencies | of anything he recommends to the senate and Roman People, | and to whomever he gives or promises his vote, at their | elections consideration shall be given to each of them out of the regular order;<sup>3</sup> *vv* |

And that he shall be permitted to extend and move forward the

boundaries of the *pomerium*<sup>4</sup> whenever he decides it will be in accordance with the best interest of the Republic, || just as permission was given to Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus | Germanicus; | *vv* and that whatever he decides will be in accordance with the advantage of the Republic and with the majesty of things divine, | human, public, and private, | he shall have the right and the power so to act and do, just as  
20 (such right and power) were possessed by the deified Augustus || and Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus and Tiberius Claudius Caesar | Augustus Germanicus; *vv* |

And that by whatever laws and plebiscites it has been written that neither the deified Augustus | nor Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus nor Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus | Germanicus shall be restricted,  
25 from such laws and plebiscites Emperor Caesar || Vespasianus shall be exempted; and whatever things in consequence of each law or bill | it was necessary for the deified Augustus or Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus or Tiberius | Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus to do, | it shall be permitted Emperor Caesar Vespasianus Augustus to do all these things; | and that whatever things before the passage of this law have been done, accomplished, || decreed, or ordered by Emperor  
30 Caesar Vespasianus Augustus | or by his order or mandate by anyone, such things shall be approved and legally binding just | as if they had been done by order of the People or Plebs. *vv* | SANCTION |

35 || If anyone because of this law (but) contrary to laws, bills, plebiscites, || or decrees of the senate has acted or will act, or if there is anything that because of this law, bill, | plebiscite, or decree of the senate he ought to do and has not done because of this law, this shall not be an offense for him, nor shall he be liable to pay any fine on this account to the People, | nor shall anyone have the right of legal action or judicial inquiry about this matter, nor shall anyone | permit proceedings about this matter in his court.

1 The investiture of a Roman emperor with imperial authority and power was conducted in two stages: a decree of the senate followed by a law passed in the Assembly of the People. The present text of the law apparently followed the phraseology of the senatorial decree, for the first tablet of this law, now lost, would have contained a phrase such as 'It has pleased the senate that . . .', which would have served to introduce all the clauses that followed in both tablets. On the imperial investiture see B. Parisi, *Désignation et investiture de l'empereur romain* (Paris 1953).

2 Note that Gaius, Nero, Galba, Otho, and Vitellius are not mentioned and that Claudius is not called 'deified'.

3 For the pre-election support of candidates by the emperor see above, Document No. 36, the 'Tabula Hebana'.

4 This was the earliest boundary of Rome, marked out, it was said, by Romulus. It was the line beyond which the auspices could not be taken. Cf. Tacitus, *Ann.* 12.23.4.