

## III. FREEDMEN OF GALBA, OTHO &amp; VITELLIUS

## A. GALBA

701	<b>Ser. Sulpicius Agathemer</b> (Ser. Sulpicii Aug. I. Fasti) conlibertus 6.8699 = D 1691 See 671	Rome F
702	<b>Ser. Sulpicius Aug. I. Alcimus</b> 6.8707 = D 4421 DIIS MANIBUS SAC / SER SULPICIO AUG L / ALCIMO AEDITUO / AB ISEM PELAGIAM (!) / VIX AN XXXVII AEDITU/AVIT AN X FECIT UXOR / VENERIA AP(h)RODISIA / VIR BENE MERENT MUL / INFELICISSUMA ET SIBI SUIS / L L P EOR *8: 'vir(o) bene merent(i) mul(ier)'. On 'Veneria' as <i>nomen</i> : Chantraine 388 + n. 142; as <i>agnomen</i> : id. 385ff.	Rome A H I L M
703	<b>Aphros Aug. I.</b> 6.27008 DIS MANIBUS / SULPICIAE / OLYMPIADI / APHROS AUG L / LIBERTAE / OPTIMAE	Rome a G
704	<b>Argius / Argivus</b> (? freedman of Galba; <i>PIR</i> <sup>2</sup> A 1041) (1) Tacitus, <i>Hist.</i> 1.49 Galbae corpus diu neglectum et licentia tenebrarum plurimis ludibriis vexatum dispensator Argius e primoribus servis humili sepultura in privatis eius hortis contexit. *'prioribus' M	AD 69
	(2) Suetonius, <i>Galb.</i> 20.2 sero tandem dispensator Argivus et hoc et ceterum truncum in privatis eius hortis Aurelia via sepulturae dedit.	
	(3) Plutarch, <i>Galb.</i> 28.3 τὸ δὲ σῶμα τοῦ Γάλβα Πρίσκος Ἐλβίδιος ἀνείλετο, τοῦ Ὀθωνος ἐπιτρέψαντος· ἔθαψε δὲ νυκτὸς Ἀργεῖος ἀπελεύθερος.	
	*The discrepancies in the sources are minor: Tacitus and Plutarch name him 'Argius', Suetonius as 'Argivus'. On the other hand, Tacitus and Suetonius agree that he was a <i>dispensator</i> , which implies that he was of slave status, indeed 'one of Galba's leading slaves'. Plutarch alone calls him a freedman. The alternative reading 'prioribus' in (1), meaning 'one of Galba's former slaves', could imply that Argius had been freed by the time of Galba's death, but is incompatible with him also still being called 'dispensator'. The reading 'primoribus' makes better sense; cf. Tac. <i>Ann.</i> 4.10: 'inter primores ministros'. On balance, it is likely that he was a slave called 'Argius', but is included here with the few other known members of Galba's own <i>familia</i> for convenience.	
705	<b>Ser. Sulpicius Aug. lib. Clemens</b> AE 1981, 366 D M / SULPICIAE / CHARIDIS / SER SULPICI AUG LIB / CLEMENTIS / NUMUNCLATORIS / LIBERTI HEREDES / POSUERUNT *On <i>nomenclatores</i> , who as sub-clericals had limited prospects of promotion in the Fam. Caes.: Weaver 227; Boulvert (1) 181 n. 633; Eck, <i>Epigraphica</i> 41, 1979, 113 no. 20.	Capena: VII A e G I

706	<p><b>[Ser. Sul]picius Aug. I. Epaphroditus Callistianus</b>          AE 1978, 52 = <i>Epigraphica</i> 40, 1978, 140          [ser sul]PICIO AUG L / EPAPHRODITO / CALLISTIANO / SULPICIA SOTERIS / CONIUGI B M</p>	Rome A S
	<p>*'Callistianus' occurs commonly as a <i>cognomen</i> (cf. Solin 675), but not elsewhere as an <i>agnomen</i>. As such in the Fam. Caes. at this period it is almost certainly derived from Callistus (49), a freedman of Gaius and, along with Narcissus and Pallas, one of the powerful triumvirate of freedmen in the reign of Claudius. Galba most likely acquired Epaphroditus before the death of Callistus between AD 48 and 51 (49 [12, 13]). The mother of Nymphidius Sabinus, praetorian prefect till the accession of Galba, was a daughter of this Callistus (49 [15]).</p>	
707	<p><b>Ser. Sulpicius Aug. liber. Erotillus</b>          6.26955          DIS MANIBUS / SER SULPICIO AUG LIBER / EROTILLO ET / OFILLIAE PHLEGUSAE / CONIUGI PISSIMAE</p>	Rome A
708	<p><b>Ser. Sulpicius Aug. I. Fastus</b>          6.8699 = D 1691          SER SULPICIO / AUG L FASTO / AB ADMISSIONE / SER SER SULPICI / AGATHEMER / ET THALLUS / CONLIBERTO</p>	Rome F I
709	<p><b>Ser. Sulpicius Aug. I. Horus</b>          6.26959          DIS MANIBUS / SER SULPICIO AUG L / HORO / TYCHE L ET / BASILIA F</p>	Rome A B G
710	<p><b>Icelus 'Marcianus'</b> (freedman of Galba; <i>PIR</i><sup>2</sup> I 16)          (1) Suetonius, <i>Ner.</i> 49.4          [Nero] nihil prius aut magis a comitibus exegerat quam ne potestas cuiquam capitis sui fieret, sed ut quoquo modo totus cremaretur. permisit hoc Icelus, Galbae libertus, non multo ante vinculis exsolutus, in quae primo tumultu coniectus fuerat.</p>	AD 68
	<p>(2) Plutarch, <i>Galb.</i> 7.1f.          ἦν δὲ θέρος ἤδη, καὶ βραχὺ πρὸ δειλῆς ἦκεν ἀπὸ Πώμης Ἴκελος ἀνὴρ ἀπελευθέρως ἑβδομαῖος. πυθόμενος δὲ τὸν Γάλβαν ἀναπαύεσθαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν ἐβάδιζε συντόνως ἐπὶ τὸ δωμάτιον αὐτοῦ, καὶ βία τῶν θαλαμηπόλων ἀνοίξας καὶ παρελθὼν ἀπήγγειλεν (2) ὅτι καὶ ζῶντος ἔτι τοῦ Νέρωνος, οὐκ ὄντος δὲ φανεροῦ, τὸ στράτευμα πρῶτον, εἶτα ὁ δῆμος καὶ ἡ σύγκλητος αὐτοκράτορα τὸν Γάλβαν ἀναγορεύσειεν, ὀλίγον δὲ ὕστερον ἀπαγγεληθεὶς τεθνηκῶς ἐκεῖνος· οὐ μὴν αὐτὸς γε πιστεύσας ἔφη τοῖς ἀπαγγέλλουσιν, ἀλλὰ ἐπελθὼν τῷ νεκρῷ καὶ κείμενον θεασάμενος, οὕτως ἐξελεθῆναι.</p>	
	<p>(3) ταῦτα ἀπαγγελλόμενα λαμπρὸν ἦρε τὸν Γάλβαν, καὶ συνέδραμε πλήθος ἀνδρῶν ἐπὶ θύρας ἐκτεθαρηγκότων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ βεβαίως. καίτοι τὸ τάχος ἦν ἄπιστον. ἀλλὰ καὶ δυσὶν ἡμέραις ὕστερον Οὐίνιος Τίτος ἀπὸ στρατοπέδου μεθ' ἑτέρων ἀφίκετο τὰ δόξαντα τῇ συγκλήτῳ καθ' ἕκαστον ἀπαγγέλλων. οὗτος μὲν οὖν εἰς τάξιν ἔντιμον προήχθη· τῷ δ' ἀπελευθέρῳ δακτυλίου τε χρυσοῦς ἔδωκε καὶ Μαρκιανὸς ὁ Ἴκελος ἤδη καλούμενος εἶχε τὴν πρώτην ἐν τοῖς ἀπελευθέροις δύναμιν.          *Cf. Suet. <i>Galb.</i> 22.</p>	

	(3) Tacitus, <i>Hist.</i> 1.13.1 potentia principatus divisa in Titum Vinium consulem Cornelium Laconem praetorii praefectum; nec minor gratia Icelo Galbae liberto, quem anulis donatum equestri nomine Marcianum vocitabant. hi discordes et rebus minoribus sibi quisque tendentes, circa consilium eligendi successoris in duas factiones scindebantur. Vinus pro M. Othone, Laco atque Icelus consensu non tam unum aliquem fovebant quam alium.	
	(4) ib. 33.2 repugnantem huic sententiae Vinium Laco minaciter invasit, stimulante Icelo privati odii pertinacia in publicum exitium.	
	(5) Suetonius, <i>Galb.</i> 14.2 [Galba] regebatur trium arbitrio, quos una et intra Palatium habitantis nec umquam non adhaerentis paedagogos vulgo vocabant. ii erant T. Vinus... Cornelius Laco... libertus Icelus, paulo ante anulis aureis et Marciani cognomine ornatus ac iam summae equestris gradus candidatus.	
	(6) Plutarch, <i>Galb.</i> 20.3 [Otho] πλείστα δὲ τοῖς στρατιωτικοῖς συνελάμβανε καὶ προῆγε πολλοὺς ἐφ' ἡγεμονίας, τὰ μὲν αἰτούμενος ἀπὸ τοῦ αὐτοκράτορος, τὰ δὲ τὸν Οὐίνιον καὶ τοὺς ἀπελευθέρους παρακαλῶν Ἰκελον καὶ Ἀσιατικόν· οὗτοι γὰρ ἦσαν ἐν δυνάμει μάλιστα τῶν περὶ τὴν αὐλήν. *Cf. ib. 29.4.	
	(7) Aurelius Victor, <i>Epit.</i> 6.2 [Galba] trium amicorum consilio, id est Vinii Cornelii Iceli{ } , cuncta disponens, adeo ut intra Palatinas aedes pariter habitarent et vulgo paedagogi dicerentur.	
	(8) Tacitus, <i>Hist.</i> 1.37.5 'septem a Neronis fine menses sunt, et iam plus rapuit Icelus quam quod Polycliti et Vatinii et Aegiali perdiderunt.' (Otho) *Cf. ib. 2.95.	AD 69
	(9) ib. 46.5 Laco praefectus, tamquam in insulam seponeretur, ab evocato, quem ad caedem eius Otho praemiserat, confossus; in Marcianum Icelum ut in libertum palam animadversum.	
	*On his <i>cognomen</i> 'Marcianus' and the so-called <i>cognomina equestria/ingenua</i> : Weaver 87f., 282; CQ 14, 1964, 311f.; Chantraine 138, 329f.	
711	<b>Moschus</b> (freedman of Galba? <i>PIR</i> <sup>2</sup> M 688) Tacitus, <i>Hist.</i> 1.87 curam navium Moschus libertus retinebat ad observandam honestiorum fidem immutatus.	AD 69 I
	*Presumably an <i>Augusti libertus</i> inherited by Otho from his immediate predecessor, if Moschus had held command of the Misene fleet under Galba. It is commonly assumed, however, that he also held this office under Nero, even from as early as 62 in succession to Anicetus (309) (Pflaum, <i>Proc. Eq.</i> 208). But it is much less likely that Galba had paid the same risky compliment to a freedman of Nero, and quite unlikely that he was an actual freedman of Otho at the time he was previously given the command.	
712	Sulpicia Olympias (Aphri Aug. I.) liberta 6.27008 See 666	Rome A G

713	<b>Ser. Sulpicius Thallus</b> (Ser. Sulpici Aug. I. Fasti) conlibertus 6.8699 = D 1691 See 671	Rome F
714	Tyche (Ser. Sulpici Aug. I. Hori) I. 6.26959 See 672	Rome A B G

## B. OTHO

- 715 **Onomastus** (freedman of Otho; *PIR*<sup>2</sup> 0 104) AD 69  
 (1) Tacitus, *Hist.* 1.25.1  
 [Otho] sed tum e libertis Onomastum futuro sceleri praefecit, a quo Barbium Proculum tesserarium speculatorum et Veturium optionem eorundem perductos, postquam vario sermone callidos audacisque cognovit, pretio et promissis onerat, data pecunia ad pertemptandos plurium animos.
- (2) Plutarch, *Galb.* 24.1  
 μεθ' ὧν [Veturius & Barbium] Ὀθωνος ἀπελεύθερος Ὀνόμαστος ἐπιφοιτῶν τοὺς μὲν ἀργυρίῳ, τοὺς δὲ ἐλπίσι διέφθειρεν...
- (3) Tacitus, *Hist.* 1.27.  
 nec multo post libertus Onomastus nuntiat expectari eum ab architecto et redemptoribus, quae significatio coeuntium iam militum et paratae coniurationis convenerat. Otho, causam digressus requirentibus, cum emi sibi praedia vetustate suspecta eoque prius exploranda finxisset, innixus liberto per Tiberianam domum in Velabrum, inde ad miliarium aureum sub aedem Saturni pergit.  
 \*Cf. Plut. *Galb.* 24.3f.; Suet. *Otho* 6.2.
- 716 **Mar(c)us Sal(v)ius Romanus Augusti libertus** Rome  
a  
 6.25833  
 D M / MARIO (!) SALBIO (!) ROMANO / AUGUSTI LIBERTO COIUSX (!)  
 BE/NE MERENTI FECIT

## C. VITELLIUS

- 717 Asiaticus** (freedman of Vitellius; *PIR*<sup>2</sup> A 1216)
- (1) Suetonius, *Vitell.* 12 I  
 talibus principiis magnam imperii partem non nisi consilio et arbitrio vilissimi cuiusque histrionum et aurigarum administravit et maxime Asiatici liberti. hunc adulescentulum mutua libidine constupratum, mox taedio profugum cum Puteolis poscam vendentem reprehendisset, coniecit in compedes statimque solvit et rursus in deliciis habuit; iterum deinde ob nimiam contumaciam et furacitatem gravatus circumforano lanistae vendidit dilatumque ad finem muneris repente subripuit et provincia demum accepta manumisit ac primo imperii die aureis donavit anulis super cenam, cum mane rogantibus pro eo cunctis detestatus esset severissime talem equestris ordinis maculam.
- (2) Tacitus, *Hist.* 2.57.2  
 [Vitellius] postulante exercitu ut libertum suum Asiaticum equestri dignitate donaret, inhonestam adulationem conpescit; dein mobilitate ingenii, quod palam abnuerat, inter secreta convivii largitur, honoravitque Asiaticum anulis, foedum mancipium et malis artibus ambitiosum.
- (3) *ib.* 95  
 nondum quartus a victoria mensis, et libertus Vitellii Asiaticus Polyclitos Patrobios et vetera odiorum nomina aequabat... magna et misera civitas, eodem anno Othonem Vitellium passa, inter Vinios Fabios Icelos Asiaticos varia et pudenda sorte agebat...  
 \*Cf. *ib.* 1.37.5, similar words put by Tacitus in the mouth of Otho about Icelus (**673 [8]**): 'septem a Neronis fine menses sunt, et iam plus rapuit Icelus quam quod Polycliti et Vatinii et Aegiali perdidit.'
- (4) Plutarch, *Galb.* 20.3 (= **673 [6]**)  
 [Otho] πλείστα δὲ τοῖς στρατιωτικοῖς συνελάμβανε καὶ προῆγε πολλοὺς ἐφ' ἡγεμονίας, τὰ μὲν αἰτούμενος ἀπὸ τοῦ αὐτοκράτορος, τὰ δὲ τὸν Οὐίνιον καὶ τοὺς ἀπελευθέρους παρακαλῶν Ἴκελον καὶ Ἀσιατικόν· οὗτοι γὰρ ἦσαν ἐν δυνάμει μάλιστα τῶν περὶ τὴν αὐλήν.  
 \*On this occasion the linking of Asiaticus with Icelus, as being one of the most influential men at the court of *Galba*, is surely anachronistic.
- (5) Tacitus, *Hist.* 4.11 AD 70  
 Asiaticus (is enim libertus) malam potentiam servili supplicio expiavit.  
 \*Cf. **676 (9)** [Icelus].
- (6) Sidonius Apollinaris, *Ep.* 5.7.3  
 See **155 (13)**  
 \*Asiaticus joins Licinus, Narcissus, Parthenius and others in the freedman hall of ill-fame.
- 718 [---] Aug. lib. [---]** Rome  
 6.37761 = AE 1908, 104 D I  
 [---] / AUG LIB [--- / ---] NOMENCLATORIS / [---] VITELLI SPINTHERIS FRATER  
 \*Freedman of Vitellius?

