

LIBER DECIMUS

Ι

- "Tertium"ne consul an "tertio" dici oporteat; et quonam modo Cn. Pompeius, cum in theatro, quod erat dedicaturus, honores suos scriberet, quaestionem ancipitem istius verbi de consilio Ciceronis vitaverit.
- 1 Familiari meo cuipiam litteras Athenis Romam 2 misi. In his scriptum fuit me illi iam "tertium" 3 scripsisse. Is ad me rescripsit petivitque ut rationem dicerem cur "tertium" ac non "tertio" scripsissem. Id etiam adscripsit, ut eadem, quid super illo quoque mihi videretur, facerem se certiorem, "tertium" ne "consul" et "quartum" an "tertio" et "quarto" dicendum esset, quoniam Romae doctum virum dicere audisset "tertio" et "quarto consul," non "tertium quartum" que; idque in principio libri III.² Coelium scripsisse et Quintum Claudium in libro undevicesimo C. Marium creatum "septimo" consulem dixisse.
- 4 Ad haec ego rescripsi nihil amplius quam verba M. Varronis, hominis, opinor, quam fuit Claudius cum Coelio doctioris, quibus verbis utrumque de quo 5 ad me scripserat decideretur; nam et Varro satis aperte quid dici oporteret edocuit et ego adversus eum qui doctus esse dicebatur litem meam facere absens nolui.

¹ inscriberet, NOΠ.

² III. added by Meltzer; libri, ω.

BOOK X

1

Whether one ought to say tertium consul or tertio; and how Gnaeus Pompeius, when he would inscribe his honours on the theatre which he was about to dedicate, by Cicero's advice evaded the difficulty as to the form of that word.

I SENT a letter from Athens to a friend of mine in Rome. In it I said that I had now written him for the third time (tertium). In his reply he asked me to give my reason for having written tertium and not tertio. He added that he hoped I would at the same time inform him what I thought about the question whether one should say tertium consul, meaning "consul for the third time," and quartum, or tertio and quarto; since he had heard a learned man at Rome say tertio and quarto consul, not tertium and quartum; also, that Coelius had so written at the beginning of his third book and that Quintus Claudius in his eleventh book said that Marius was chosen consul for the seventh time, using septimo.

In reply to these questions, to decide both matters about which he had written to me, I contented myself with quoting Marcus Varro, a more learned man in my opinion than Coelius and Claudius together. For Varro has made it quite plain what ought to be said, and I did not wish, when at a distance, to enter into a dispute with a man who had the name of being learned.

¹ Fr. 59, Peter³.

² Fr. 82, Peter².

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6 Verba M. Varronis ex libro Disciplinarum quinto haec sunt: "Aliud est 'quarto' praetorem fieri et 'quartum'; quod 'quarto' locum adsignificat ac tres ante factos, 'quartum' tempus adsignificat et ter ante factum. Igitur Ennius recte, quod scripsit:

Quintus pater quartum fit consul,

et Pompeius timide, quod in theatro, ne adscriberet 'consul tertium' aut 'tertio,' extremas litteras non

scripsit."

Quod de Pompeio Varro breviter et subobscure dixit, Tiro Tullius, Ciceronis libertus, in epistula quadam enarratius scripsit ad hunc ferme modum: "Cum Pompeius," inquit, "aedem Victoriae dedicaturus foret, cuius gradus vicem theatri essent, nomenque eius et honores scriberentur, quaeri coeptum est, utrum 'consul tertio' inscribendum esset an 'tertium.' Eam rem Pompeius exquisitissime rettulit ad doctissimos civitatis, cumque dissentiretur et pars 'tertio,' alii 'tertium' scribendum contenderent, rogavit," inquit, "Ciceronem Pompeius, ut quod ei rectius videretur scribi iuberet." Tum Ciceronem iudicare de viris doctis veritum esse, ne, quorum opinionem inprobasset, ipsos videretur inprobasse. "Persuasit igitur Pompeio, ut neque 'tertium' neque 'tertio' scriberetur, sed ad secundum usque t fierent

¹ inscriberentur, NO²ΠX.

p. 202, Bipont.
 That is, that he was fourth in order of election.

³ Ann. 295, Vahlen². 4 He wrote tert.; see § 7. Tertium is correct; the inscription on the Pantheon reads M. Agrippa, L. f., cos. tertium fecit. ⁵ p. 12, Lion.

BOOK X. 1. 6-7

Marcus Varro's words, in the fifth book of his Disciplinae, are as follows: "It is one thing to be made practor quarto, and another quartum; for quarto refers to order and indicates that three were elected before him; quartum refers to time and indicates that he had been made practor three times before. Accordingly Ennius was right when he wrote:

Quintus, his sire, a fourth time (quartum) consul is, and Pompeius was timid when, in order to avoid writing consul tertium or tertio on his theatre, he did not write the final letters." 4

What Varro briefly and somewhat obscurely hinted at concerning Pompey, Tullius Tiro, Cicero's freedman, wrote at greater length in one of his letters, substantially as follows: 5 "When Pompey was preparing to consecrate the temple of Victory, the steps of which formed his theatre, and to inscribe upon it his name and honours, the question arose whether consul tertium should be written, or tertio. Pompey took great pains to refer this question to the most learned men of Rome, and when there was difference of opinion, some maintaining that tertio ought to be written, others tertium, Pompey asked Cicero," says Varro, "to decide upon what seemed to him the more correct form." Then Cicero was reluctant to pass judgment upon learned men, lest he might seem to have censured the men themselves in criticizing their opinion. "He accordingly advised Pompey to write neither tertium nor tertio, but to inscribe the first

⁶ Because of the sentiment against a permanent theatre at Rome, Pompey placed a temple of Venus Victrix at the top of his theatre, so that the seats of the auditorium formed an approach to it. It was built in 55 B.C.

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litterae, ut verbo non perscripto res quidem demonstraretur, sed dictio tamen ambigua verbi lateret."

8 Id autem, quod et Varro et Tiro dixerunt, in 9 eodem nunc theatro non est ita scriptum. Nam cum multis annis postea scaena, quae prociderat, refecta esset, numerus tertii consulatus non uti initio primoribus litteris, sed tribus tantum liniolis incisis significatus est.

10 In M. autem Catonis quarta Origine ita perscriptum est: "Carthaginienses sextum de foedere decessere." Id verbum significat quinquiens ante

11 eos fecisse contra foedus et tum sextum. Graeci quoque in significandis huiuscemodi rerum numeris τρίτον καὶ τέταρτον dicunt, quod congruit cum eo quod Latine dicitur: "tertium quartumque."

Π

Quid Aristoteles de numero puerperii memoriae mandaverit.

1 Aristoteles philosophus memoriae tradidit, mulierem in Aegypto uno partu quinque pueros enixam, eumque esse finem dixit multiiugae hominum partionis neque plures umquam simul genitos compertum,

2 hunc autem numerum ait esse rarissimum. Sed et divo Augusto imperante qui temporum eius historiam scripserunt ancillam Caesaris Augusti in agro Laurente peperisse quinque pueros dicunt eosque pauculos dies vixisse; matrem quoque eorum, non multo postquam peperit, mortuam monumentumque ei factum iussu

¹ That is, by the Roman numeral III.

² Fr. 84, Peter².
³ Cf. Hist. Anim. vii. 4, p. 584, 29.

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four letters only, so that the meaning was shown without writing the whole word, but yet the doubt as to the form of the word was concealed."

But that of which Varro and Tiro spoke is not now written in that way on this same theatre. For when, many years later, the back wall of the stage had fallen and was restored, the number of the third consulship was indicated, not as before, by the first four letters, but merely by three incised lines.¹

However, in the fourth book of Marcus Cato's Origines we find: "The Carthaginians broke the treaty for the sixth time (sextum)." This word indicates that they had violated the treaty five times before, and that this was the sixth time. The Greeks too in distinguishing numbers of this kind use $\tau \rho i \tau \sigma \nu$ wai $\tau \epsilon \tau a \rho \tau \sigma \nu$, which corresponds to the Latin words tertium quartumque.

Π

What Aristotle has recorded about the number of children born at one time.

The philosopher Aristotle has recorded 3 that a woman in Egypt bore five children at one birth; this, he said, was the limit of human multiple parturition; more children than that had never been known to be born at one time, and even that number was very rare. But in the reign of the deified Augustus the historians of the time say that a maid servant of Caesar Augustus in the region of Laurentum brought forth five children, and that they lived for a few days; that their mother died not long after she had been delivered, whereupon a monument was erected to her by order of Augustus

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