

THE PARENTS OF QUINTUS PISO, CONSUL IN 135 B.C.

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Q. CALPURNIUS PISO, CONSUL IN 135 B.C., was, according to Münzer, "Sohn eines Gaius."¹ His father is generally considered to have been the consul of 180, C. Calpurnius C. f. C. n. Piso,² but this assumption, which has become an orthodoxy in Roman republican prosopography, is not securely tied to firm evidence. Thus, Q. Piso's filiation is not attested as "C. f. C. n." but "C ([.f.n])" (*CIL* I² 26) or "Γαίον υἱός" (*SIG*³ 683, line 44); his grandfather is not recorded. It may be plausible to argue that the one known Gaius from the previous generation of the Calpurnii Pisones must have been the father of the consul of 135, but this is hardly conclusive. Q. Piso is just as likely to have been the son of a Gaius from another branch of this family or descended, as Mommsen evidently thought possible, from a Gnaeus.³

The one certain son of the consul of 180 was L. Calpurnius C. f. C. n. Piso Caesoninus, consul in 148.⁴ A Caesonius by birth and probably adopted by the will of C. Piso, he is attributed with a praetorship in 154;⁵ if he held this magistracy *suo anno*, then he must have been born in 194 and *adulescentulus* when he became a member of the *gens Calpurnia*. Adoption, a well-documented procedure, whether by an elderly individual or through last will and testament, surely indicates an absence of heirs.⁶ The consul

¹Münzer, *RE* 3 (1894) Calpurnius no. 86.

²Thus, T. R. S. Broughton, *Magistrates of the Roman Republic* (New York 1951–52), hereafter *MRR*, 1.488: "Q. Calpurnius C. f. C. n. Piso"; A. Degraasi, *Fasti Capitolini* (Turin 1954) 73: "[Q. Cal]purnius C. [f. C. n.] Piso"; D. C. Earl, "Calpurnii Pisones in the Second Century B.C.," *Athenaeum* 38 (1960) 291: "Q. Calpurnius Piso, from his filiation C. f. C. n. a son of the consul of 180 . . ." For the *cos.* 180, see *MRR* 1.387; Münzer, *RE* 3 (1894) Calpurnius no. 62.

³At *CIL* I² 26, the reconstruction of the *fasti* leaves sufficient space between "C" and "f" for the insertion of the "n" for "Cn." At *CIL* I² 35 Mommsen was non-committal about the filiation, but at *CIL* I² 148 he clearly preferred "Cn" to "C."

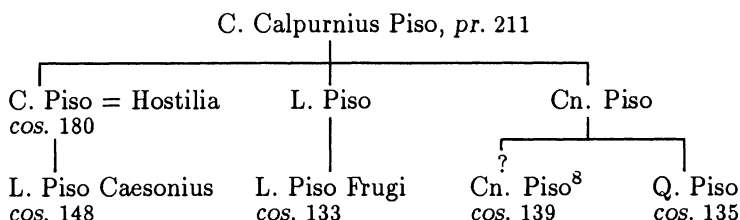
⁴*MRR* 1.461; Degraasi (above, note 2) 71.

⁵*MRR* 1.450, and n. 1; Earl (above, note 2) 291.

⁶Thus, Cicero *Dom.* 35 refers to the adoption by a Cn. Aufidius of an Aurelius Orestes, later *cos.* 71, Cn. Aufidius Cn. f. Orestes, and to a M. Pupius who adopted a Calpurnius Piso, later *cos.* 61, M. Pupius M. f. Piso Frugi. The most celebrated instance of testamentary adoption is that of C. Octavius by C. Iulius Caesar in 44, Suet. Aug. 8. For a recent discussion of testamentary adoption, see U. Vogel-Weidemann, *Die Statthalter von Africa und Asia in den Jahren 14–68 n. Chr.* (Bonn 1982) 409–413.

of 180 would not have needed to have adopted a Caesonius if he already possessed sons.

The wife of C. Piso was a certain Hostilia Quarta. After her husband died in rather mysterious circumstances at the beginning of his consulship, she was charged with his murder and condemned (Livy, 40.37.4-7). As Livy relates, she resorted to killing her husband so that her son, Q. Fulvius Cn. f. M. n. Flaccus, would obtain the vacant consulship as *suffectus*.⁷ Flaccus had been praetor in 187 and had failed to be elected to the consulship on three previous occasions; in 180 he was over forty. His stepfather, C. Piso, had been praetor in 186 and was, therefore, about the same age. Hostilia Quarta, however, cannot have been born much after 235, which made her considerably older than her husband, and in 180 she was probably in her mid-fifties. She was undoubtedly past child-bearing age by this time, which makes her a very unlikely candidate for the mother of Q. Piso. Furthermore, it would be incredible if Quintus Piso and Q. Flaccus were uterine brothers with an age difference of forty years between them.



Revised Stemma of the Calpurnii Pisones

The evidence tends to support the hypothesis that Q. Piso was the son of Cn. Piso rather than of the consul of 180. But a counter proposal exists which requires mention. The "Κόιντος Καλιπόρνιος Γαίου υἱός" who appears styled as "ὁ στρατηγός" on an inscription dated ca 140 (SIG³ 683, line 43) is assumed, by Dittenberger, to have been the consul of 135. If Q. Piso's consulship was *suo anno* he would have been born in 178 which would certainly exclude C. Piso as his father, but if, after a praetorship about 140, he reached the consulship in his late forties or early fifties, a

⁷ On Q. Fulvius Flaccus, *cos. suff.* 180, see MRR 1.387; Münzer, *RE* 7 (1910) Fulvius no. 60.

⁸ Not only is the filiation of the *cos.* 139 unattested (MRR 1.481; Münzer, *RE* 3 [1894] Calpurnius no. 73) but his *praenomen* is recorded as either "Cn," *Oxy. Per.* 54, or "L," *Val. Max.* 1.2.3. His position in this family's stemma must, therefore, also remain a conjecture.

delay not unprecedented in the second century,⁹ then a birthdate of 185 or before is possible. This would suggest that he was a son of C. Piso from an earlier marriage than the one recorded with Hostilia Quarta. Q. Piso may, therefore, have been an infant at the death of his father and an older heir was adopted in order to ensure the family's fortunes. While a neat and tidy solution cannot yet be offered to the problem of Q. Piso's filiation, Mommsen's conjecture is perhaps, on balance, the more likely.

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⁹Thus, Cn. Baebius Tamphilus, *pr.* 199, *cos.* 182, *MRR* 1.327, 381; Klebs, *RE* 2 (1896) Baebius no. 41; M. Baebius Tamphilus, *pr.* 192, *cos.* 181, *MRR* 1.350, 383; Klebs, *RE* 2 (1896) Baebius no. 44; A. Atilius Serranus, *pr.* 192, *cos.* 170, *MRR* 1.350, 419, *Supp.* 27; Klebs, *RE* 2 (1896) Atilius no. 60; L. Aemilius Paullus, *pr.* 191, *cos.* 182, *MRR* 1.353, 381, *Supp.* 9-10; Klebs, *RE* 1 (1894) Aemilius no. 114; M. Iunius Brutus, *pr.* 191, *cos.* 178, *MRR* 1.353, 395; Münzer, *RE* 10.1 (1917) Iunius no. 48; A. Manlius Vulso, *pr.* 189, *cos.* 178, *MRR* 1.361, 395; Münzer, *RE* 14.1 (1928) Manlius no. 90; A. Hostilius Mancinus, *pr.* 180, *cos.* 170, *MRR* 1.387, 419; Münzer, *RE* 8 (1913) Hostilius no. 16; Ser. Sulpicius Galba, *pr.* 151, *cos.* 144, *MRR* 1.455, 470; Münzer, *RE* 4A.1 (1931) Sulpicius no. 58.