

## IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS

2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

### Press Information

## IMPERIUM: Marriage as an Instrument of Power

### LWL-Römermuseum presents Augustus' Policy on Marriage and the Question of Succession.

#### Haltern am See (lwl)

Under Emperor Augustus the Roman Empire 2000 years ago was at the height of its power. The rise of Rome to a power which dominated the whole Mediterranean area is shown by the LWL-Römermuseum in Haltern am See in its new exhibition "IMPERIUM" (16.5.-11.10.). The exhibition organised by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL) is part of the exhibition project „IMPERIUM CONFLICT MYTH. 2000 Years Varus Battle“. It spotlights Augustus' political achievements and the cultural riches of his "Golden Age". The exhibition presents a picture of the man who was defeated in the Battle in the Teutoburg Forest that does away with the widespread image of Publius Quinctilius Varus as a failure.

#### Son-in-law Varus

**The LWL is presenting some of the more than 300 world-class exhibits in a series:**

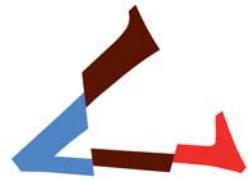
The Roman historian, Cassius Dio, reports that Julius's father divorced her mother on the very day of her daughter's birth. Julia is Augustus' only natural child: she is at the same time his daughter and an instrument of imperial power politics. It was usual among the citizens of ancient Rome for the heads of the families to marry off the members of their families. Augustus used this tradition as a tool to secure the status attained by his family. He ordains divorces and marriage rigorously so that he can determine his succession from his own family circle. In this fashion he secures the loyalty of members of the upper class who are well inclined towards him. Publius Quinctilius Varus is amongst them. He first marries a daughter of Agrippa, the Emperor's closest political advisor, and in 7 AD a great niece of the Emperor. A fragment of the obituary held by the Emperor in honour of his friend Agrippa reports on the first marriages. In it Varus is named as Agrippa's son-in-law.

#### Engagement in Earliest Childhood

It is Julia's misfortune to play a central role in her father's policy concerning the question of marriages and the succession. As a child she is engaged to the son of an ally. At the age of 14 she marries her 17 year old cousin, Marcellus. After his death, Augustus forces her into a marriage with Agrippa, who has to divorce his wife for this. Julia has five children with her husband, who is 25 years her senior.

[www.imperium-konflikt-mythos.de](http://www.imperium-konflikt-mythos.de)

„IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS. 2000 Jahre Varusschlacht“ ist ein Ausstellungsprojekt im Jahre 2009 getragen von:



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However, Agrippa, the second most powerful man in the state, dies. So Augustus marries his daughter to his stepson, Tiberius. Their son dies at an early age. The so-called wedding cup from Xanten probably alludes to their marriage. On it the wedding of Jason, a Greek mythological hero, with the Corinthian prince, Kreusa, can be seen. This is Jason's second marriage, just as it was Tiberius'.

### Offence to Morals

Julia and Tiberius reluctantly accept their forced union. The Emperor's daughter has affairs, possibly as a result of her father's unscrupulous behaviour. Even during her marriage to Agrippa, Julia, often described as promiscuous, is said to have had relations with several men, the historian Tacitus reports. She is said to have been implicated in a conspiracy of one of her lovers against Augustus. In 2 BC the Emperor accuses her of conspiracy before the Senate. Julia is banished from Rome because of this offence against the new moral laws. Some of her lovers are punished the same way, at least one of them is executed.

Years later Julia dies in exile. The Emperor prevents her burial in the family mausoleum. On the death of the Emperor on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 14 AD Tiberius succeeds him. Thus Augustus' unscrupulous policy concerning the question of marriage and succession had failed. All of the successors favoured by him had died before him.

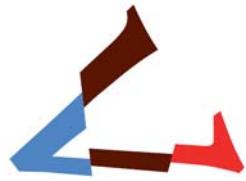
His stepson Tiberius – the natural child of his wife, Livia – is his successor. Livia was married for 51 years to Augustus (Octavian). However, they never had children.

### Exhibition IMPERIUM

Seestadthalle  
Lippspieker 25  
45721 Haltern am See

### Opening hours

Tuesday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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## Press Information

### **Admission charges**

Adults: 9 Euro

Families: 20 Euro

Students: 2 Euro

Reduced rate: 6 Euro

Groups with more than 16 persons: 7 Euro per person (plus charges for guided tour)

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