

Sallust BC 17-18 notes

XVII

(1)

"The composition of his following at this point - he is not yet the champion of the lower classes - and the repeated reference to the fact that success was felt to depend on success at the election make for the assumption that S. is here dealing not with a full-fledged conspiracy but with an exploratory and preparatory programme on the part of Catiline." (McGushin).

circiter Kalendas lunias: "'about the 1st of June.'" This is one of the few specific dates supplied by S. in the *Cat.* There are only five in all: three in 18; one in 30.1. S. places the meeting of the conspirators at which Catiline revealed his strategy (vid. 20.1n.)

approximately one month before the consular elections which normally took place about mid-July. The year (64 B.C.) is specified in the usual fashion in the following abl. absol. by the names of the two consuls: L. Julius Caesar and C. Marcius Figulus. This Caesar was a distant relative of the future dictator. His sister, by her first husband, was the mother of the triumvir M. Antonius and was at this time married to Catiline's accomplice P. Lentulus Sura, who is mentioned below (Cic. *Cat.* 4.13; *Phil* 8.1). Despite this connection, L. Caesar recommended the death penalty for Lentulus and his fellow conspirators (Cic. *Att.* 12.21.1)." (Ramsey).

L. Caesar...cōsulibus: i.e. 64 BC, abl. abs.: supply linking participle 'being' (Steadman).

singulōs: i.e. his men individually (Steadman).

appellare: "the first in a series of four historical inf.s.; the verb means to call upon someone in order to solicit his support. An elaborate form of double chiasmus is used to set off the first three of these four clauses in

syndeton: *singulos* (A) *appellare* (B), *hortari* (B) *alios* (A), *alios* (A) *temptare* (B).

inparatam r. p.: the leading idea is contained in the participle as it often is when a pf. pass. part. is used as an attributive adj.; translate by means of an abstract noun: "the unpreparedness (i.e., unprepared condition) of the state."" (Ramsey)

aliōs, aliōs: some...others (Steadman)

opēs...praemia: about...; all acc.objects *docēre* (Steadman)

(2)

quae voluit: "sc. *explorare* ("ascertain"); *voluit* has been attracted into the historic pf. by *explorata sunt* and stands for *volebat*." (Ramsey).

in unum: "adverbial, pleonastic with *omnis convocat*; Cic. (*Leg.* 1.53) has *in locum unum convocasse*, but S. always prefers to treat *unum* as a substantive. The phrase occurs only here in the *Cat.*, but six times in the *Jug.*" (Ramsey).

quibus: "dat. depending on *inerat* (vid. 15.5 n.), which goes well with *plurimum audaciae* but is less appropriate with *necessitudo*, with which the simple verb *erat* is more logical. There is, therefore, here, in contrast with 23.2, a slight zeugma." (Ramsey)

necessitudo: "'want" or "need" in the sense of "distress" caused by poverty. Throughout the *Cat.* and *Jug.*, S. eschews the word *necessitas*, for which he substitutes *necessitudo*, a somewhat archaic usage (Gell. 13.3.3). Rarely in S. does *necessitudo* have its more usual classical meaning of a "bond" or "tie" of friendship or obligation. [S. shows a preference for abstracts in *-tudo* rather than *-tas* (e.g., *claritudo* twice but never *claritas*) since the former were felt to be more archaic and were regarded as contributing a certain *dignitas* or solemnity because of their weightiness (Gell. 17.2.19).]" (Ramsey).

(3)

senatorii ordinis: "gen. of quality modifying the proper names that follow. The senatorial order was one of the three principal classes into which the citizen body was divided in this

period according to office or wealth (vid. [17.4](#) on the *ordo equester* and *plebeius*). The *ordo senatorius* consisted of the 600 members of the Roman senate, who held their seats for life unless they were removed by the censors for misconduct when the roll of the senate was revised. After the reforms of Sulla in 81 B.C., admission to this body was gained by election to one of the twenty annual quaestorships, the first and lowest office in the *cursus honorum*. *P. Lentulus Sura*: the most important of the conspirators after Catiline; a member of the Cornelian gens, grandson of a *princeps senatus* (cos. 162 B.C.), and a patrician. He was praetor in 74 B.C. and consul in 71 B.C., but in the following year the censors expelled him from the senate along with 63 others who were judged unworthy of their rank (Plut. *Cic.* 17.1). Lentulus held the praetorship for a second time in 63 B.C., which entitled him to regain his membership in the senate, but unless he had recovered his senatorial rank earlier by repeating one of the junior offices, he was technically no longer a member of the *senatorius ordo* at the date of this meeting in 64. Likewise Autronius, Curius, and probably Vargunteius had forfeited their membership in the senate prior to this date. Lentulus assumed the direction of the conspirators in Rome after Catiline left the city to join the forces that had been collected by Manlius at Faesulae, and he was one of the five who were put to death by vote of the senate on Dec. 5th.” (Ramsey)

P. Autronius (Paetus); “a reckless, violent, and licentious man (Cic. *Sull.* 71), he was in his youth a fellow student and friend of Cic.’s and his colleague in the quaestorship in 75 B.C. (*Sull.* 18). As a result of his conviction for *ambitus* (corrupt electioneering practices) in 66, he lost his seat in the senate and was permanently disqualified from standing for office in the future. His shattered career will account for his willingness to join the conspiracy.” (Ramsey)

L. Cassius Longinus: “praetor with Cic. in 66 B.C., he was a corpulent and slow-witted individual (Cic. *Cat.* 3.16). He was a member of a noble plebeian family, and since he was himself a candidate for the consulship in 64 along with Cic. and Catiline, it was probably only after his failure to attain this office that his thoughts turned to revolution. According to Cic. (*Sull.* 36–39), he played an active role in the negotiations with the Allobroges in late 63 and eagerly took charge of the arrangements for setting fire to the city (*Cat.* 3.14, 4.13; *Sull.* 53).” (Ramsey)

C. Cethegus: “of the Cornelian gens and a patrician like Catiline and Lentulus. He was noted for his impetuous and violent nature (43.3–4; Cic. *Cat.* 3.16 *furiosa temeritas*, 4.11). At the time of the conspiracy, Cethegus was a relatively young man, and his impatience for more rapid political advancement may account for his joining the plot. After his arrest, a search of his house on 3 Dec. 63 B.C. revealed a large stockpile of armaments (Cic. *Cat.* 3.8, 3.10; Plut. *Cic.* 19.2). According to one source (Ampelius, *Lib. Mem.* 31), his own brother voted for the death penalty when the senate met on Dec. 5th to consider the punishment of the conspirators.” (Ramsey)

P. et Ser. Sullae Ser. filii: “most likely members of a collateral branch of the family of the dictator (5.6), which would make them both patricians. Their family background and the desire for power and rapid advancement may well account for their presence among the conspirators. Both were tried and convicted early in 62 B.C. for their role in the plot (Cic. *Sull.* 6, 71). This P. Sulla is not to be confused with the consul designate in 66 (18.2), whom Cic. successfully defended in 62.” (Ramsey)

L. Vargunteius: “charged with *ambitus*, probably in 66 B.C., and apparently convicted despite being defended by the distinguished orator Q. Hortensius (Cic. *Sull.* 6). This circumstance will account for the apparent allusion to Vargunteius in Nov. 63 as an eques rather than a senator (Cic. *Cat.* 1.9 with S. *Cat.* 28.1). In the early months of 62, he was prosecuted and presumably condemned to exile under the *lex Plautia de vi* for his part in the conspiracy (*Sull.* 6).” (Ramsey)

Q. Annius: “doubtless the Q. Annius Chilo who is mentioned by Cicero as one of the prime movers in soliciting the participation of the Allobroges in the conspiracy. A warrant was issued for his arrest at the meeting of the senate on Dec. 3rd (Cic. *Cat.* 3.14), and on the 5th he was condemned to death *in absentia* by decree of the senate.” (Ramsey)

M. Porcius Laeca: “the conspirators were summoned by Catiline to a meeting at his house, which was located in the street of the scythe-makers, on the night of 6 Nov. 63 B.C. (27.3–4). He was prosecuted in 62 and presumably condemned to exile (Cic. *Sull.* 6).” (Ramsey)

L. (Calpurnius) Bestia: “elected tribune of the plebs in 63; after he entered office on Dec. 10th, he appears to have joined his fellow tribune Q. Metellus Nepos in criticizing Cic. for abusing the powers of his office in suppressing the conspiracy, and they prevented Cic. from addressing the people when he laid down his consulship at the end of the year on the grounds that he had put Roman citizens to death without a trial (Plut. *Cic.* 23.1; *Schol. Bob.* pp. 82, 127 St.; cf. Cic. *Sull.* 31; *Sest.* 11). Apparently a reconciliation took place some years later because in 56 Cic. defended Bestia on a charge of *ambitus* which stemmed from Bestia's candidacy for the praetorship in 57 (*QFr.* 2.3.6). He seems to have been convicted and is last heard of in Antony's camp in 43 (*Phil.* 11.11, 13.26).” (Ramsey)

Q. Curius: “another senator who was deprived of his seat in the census of 70 B.C. ..He is probably to be identified with the exquaestor who was a notorious dicer (Ascon. p. 93C). Through his mistress Fulvia, he was persuaded by Cic. to turn informer, and he is given credit for warning Cic. of the plot to assassinate him on Nov. 7th. Curius forfeited, however, the reward that had been voted to him by the senate when he attempted to implicate Caesar in the conspiracy (Suet. *Jul.* 17).” (Ramsey)

(4) *equestri ordine*: “as its name implies, the members of this class were originally those who served on horseback in Rome's army. In this period, the *ordo equester* appears to have included all citizens who possessed a specified property qualification (400,000 sesterces under the Empire, when the figure is first attested) and were not members of the senate. The remainder of the citizens outside these two classes were lumped in the *ordo plebeius*. The social status of the equestrians was not too different from that of most senators.

Although they did not belong to the governing class, their influence was ever present behind the scenes. To this class belonged the *publicani*, who farmed the taxes, and the financiers who controlled the fields of banking and commerce. When the juries were reconstituted by the *lex Aurelia* of 70 B.C., senators and equites both received a share of this important function.

M. Fulvius Nobilior: “mentioned only here by S. and not to be identified with the Fulvius *senatoris filius* (39.5) whom S. specifically says was among those *extra coniurationem*. His precise role in the conspiracy and fate are unknown, unless he is the M. Fulvius Nobilior who was convicted in 54 B.C. apparently on a charge of *ambitus*. He is perhaps a descendant of Q. Fulvius Nobilior, censor in 136 B.C. Since the mid-3rd century B.C., this noble plebeian family had suffered eclipse, and this may explain why Fulvius joined the conspiracy.” (Ramsey)

L. Statilius: “one of the five conspirators executed on 5 Dec. 63 B.C. He and Gabinius were to direct the setting of fires in twelve designated regions of the city.” (Ramsey)

P. Gabinius Capito: “Cicero (*Cat.* 3.6) singles him out as one of the most wicked ringleaders of the plot and dubs him with the nickname *Cimber*, doubtless to liken his conduct to the barbarity of the Cimbri, a Germanic tribe, who invaded Italy at the end of the 2nd century B.C. He played an active role in the negotiations with the Allobroges and was executed by order of the senate.” (Ramsey)

C. Cornelius: “along with Vargunteius, he attempted to assassinate Cicero at his home on 7 Nov. 63 B.C. He was tried and apparently condemned to exile in 62 B.C. (Cic. *Sull.* 6).

ad hoc: vid. 14.3n.” (Ramsey)

coloniis et municipiis: “a standard expression denoting the various towns of Italy that had their own government at the local level. After the Social War (91–87 B.C.) when Roman citizenship was granted to all Italians south of the river Po, the distinction in status between these two classes of settlements was virtually obliterated. Originally the colonies were settlements planted by the Roman government to garrison strategic regions (esp. the Italian coasts), to relieve excess population in Rome, or to settle discharged veterans. By contrast, the *municipia* were formerly independent Italian towns that had been incorporated into the Roman state by grants of partial citizenship (*civitas sine suffragio*, i.e., civil rights but not the right to vote or hold office) to which was added the obligation (*munus*) of serving in the Roman army.” (Ramsey)

domi nobiles: “in apposition with *multi (eo convenere)*; a stock phrase to denote men of high standing at the local level (members of the municipal aristocracy) as opposed to the more select circle of *nobiles* in Rome whose family had held high office in the Roman government (vid. 5.1n. *nobili*); *domi* is locative.” (Ramsey); “members of local aristocracies of Italy, many with considerable influence at Rome both as members of the *comitia centuriata* and because of personal ties with Roman politicians.” (McGushin).

(5)

Erant: “placed first because it is used in the substantive sense: “there were” (subject) *complures ... nobiles*; these sympathizers were not present at the meeting, and their identity is open to speculation.” (Ramsey).

occultius: ““more secretly,” i.e., “less openly,” comparative adv. modifying the adj. *participes*, which is construed with the gen. *huiusce*: vid. 15.1n.” (Ramsey).

(6)

Ceterum: “adv., “besides,” introducing a transition to another observation.” (Ramsey).

maximē nōbilium: “the repetition of *nobilis*, *nobilitas*, in references to Catiline and his followers ... reflects S.’s view that the troubles of which the conspiracy were a symptom were in part due to the corrupt and unpatriotic members of this class.” (McGushin)

sed maxime: “the adv. *maxime* strengthens the adversative, and this combination often serves to introduce the most important member in a series” (Ramsey)

quibus: “pl. because of the collective sense of *iuventus* (cf. 16.1n.), an example of synesis.” (Ramsey)

vivere: “virtually equivalent to a complementary inf. depending on *copia erat* (cf. 8.5 n.), as if S. had written *qui... poterant*. The gen. of the gerund *vivendi* would be more usual, and the inf. appears to be introduced by an extension of its common use as the subject of *esse* or equivalent verb that takes a predicate nominative. For other examples of S.’s freer use of the inf., vid. 5.9n. *repetere*.” (Ramsey)

incerta, certīs: neuter pl., supply ‘things’ (Steadman)

pro ... quam: “S. deliberately varies the construction although both pairs stand in the same relationship to *malebant* The acc. with *malo* is rare and mainly confined to poetry; on the shift from the sing, (*favebat*) to pl. (*malebant*), which is eased by the rel. *quibus* whose unexpressed antecedent supplies the subject” (Ramsey); *prō*: in place of..., instead of... (Steadman)

quam: than...; clause of comparison (Steadman)

incerta pro certis, bellum quam pacem: note the antithesis and variation.

(7)

fuēre= fuerunt.

ea tempestate: archaic and poetical for *eo tempore*.

quī crēderent: (those) who...; impf. subj. in a relative clause of characteristic (Steadman) (a generic *qui*-clause); introduces indirect speech (infinitive *fuisse*).

M. Licinium Crassum: “he amassed great wealth in the Sullan proscriptions (cf. 11.4 n.) and afterwards became one of the richest men in Rome. Twice consul with Pompey (70 and 55 B.C.) and censor in 65, he remained in Rome during the absence of Pompey from 67–62 and cast about for various means to strengthen his own power so that he would be in a favorable bargaining position when Pompey returned from the East with his army (vid. 16.5n.). The memory of Sulla's invasion of Italy was still fresh in the minds of most Romans, and many feared that Pompey would emulate Sulla and use his army to achieve personal domination over the government. Crassus' precise connection with Catiline at this time is difficult to determine. In his secret history, *de Consiliis Suis*, which was not published until after his death, Cic. claimed that Crassus engineered the alleged plot of Catiline and Piso to murder the consuls in 65 (18.5) and that Catiline and Antonius received financial backing from Crassus in 64 in their bid for the consulship (Ascon. p. 83C). It is not unreasonable to suppose that Crassus may have supported the candidacy of Catiline in 64 since at that time, contrary to S.'s account, Catiline was by no means an avowed revolutionary. The senate had arranged for the consuls elected in 64 to govern the provinces of Cisalpine Gaul and Macedonia in 62, and since both provinces contained armies and were strategically located, Crassus may well have wished to secure the election of two men friendly to his own interests as a counterweight to the vast military resources at Pompey's disposal. (Ramsey)

eius: this; gen. demon. adj. with *cōnsiliū* (Steadman)

inuisus ipsi: “The well-known friction between Pompeius and Crassus in the year of their joint consulship (70 BC) could have begun as early as 80, the occasion of Pompeius' triumph for his African campaign; it persisted throughout their careers, even when they joined forces for their mutual benefit, and Crassus' motive for departing with his family for Asia in 62 is accurately interpreted by Plutarch as a desire to lend credence to anti-Pompeian gossip.” (McGushin).

ipsi: “i.e., Crassus, dat. with *invisus*, which is best translated by means of a relative clause. In 71 B.C. Crassus brought the war against Spartacus to a successful conclusion but was deprived of much of the credit by Pompey, who returned with his army from Spain in time to crush the remnants of this revolt and claim the glory of the victory for himself (Plut. *Crass.* 11.5-7). This incident gave rise to jealousy and hostility between Crassus and Pompey which was only temporarily abated by a reconciliation toward the end of their joint consulship in 70 (Plut. *Crass.* 12.2-4, *Pomp.* 23.1-2; Suet. *Iul.* 19.2; cf. *S. Hist.* 5.51M).” (Ramsey)

magnum exercitum: “The bill of Manilius in 66 had made Pompeius general extraordinary in the provinces of Asia, Cilicia and Bithynia, vested with almost unlimited military and financial powers to finish the war against Mithridates.” (McGushin).

ductabat: indicative of fact (not part of the indirect speech after *crederent*): “was in fact command of” (McGushin); “although the *quia* clause is causally related to the indirect statement made by *voluisse* (subject *Crassum*), the indicative rather than the subjn. indicates that this reason is added by S. as a factual statement and is not simply attributed to the subject of the verb” (Ramsey).

cuiusvīs...crēsere: (and) that he (Crassus) wanted the power of anyone you wish to grow against the power of that one (Pompey); ind. disc. governed by *crēderent* (Steadman)

illius: “i.e., *Pompei*.” (Ramsey)

simul: “the participle is to be taken in a causal sense, as at 16.4, and is deliberately substituted for a second *quia* clause to produce dissymmetry.” (Ramsey)

valuisset: “the subjn. is due to the fact that the conditional clause is subordinate to the indirect statement (suboblique) and stands for the fut. pf. indic. *valuerit* in *oratio recta*,

while *fore* (= *futurum esse*) stands for *ero*.” (Ramsey): If Crassus' thought were expressed in direct form, it would be *si coniuratio ualuerit, (ego) princeps ero*.
illos: “sc. *coniuratos*, a sense-construction (synesis...) from *coniuratio* preceding.” (Ramsey).

XVIII

(1)

Sed: “the flashback (chaps. 18–19) to the so-called first conspiracy of Catiline in 65 B.C... appears to be prompted by the reference to Crassus at the end of chapt. 17. According to some accounts, Crassus and Caesar were active participants in this plot ...S. (19.1) explicitly connects Crassus with Cn. Piso, who was commonly linked with Catiline's intrigues in 65. The technique of interrupting the narrative to footnote an earlier related event by means of a digression may be a device consciously borrowed from Thucydides (e.g., 1.89–118, the “Pentakontaetia”; 6.54–59, the Athenian tyrants).” (Ramsey)
coniūrāvēre = *coniūrāvērunt*. “the verb is made more emphatic by being placed before the subject *pauci*.” (Ramsey).
in quibus: among; some texts read *quīs* (= *quibus*):

(2)

qua: “i.e., *coniuratione* which must be supplied from *coniuravere*, as if S. had written *coniurationem fecere*; an extreme example of a type of synesis ... is found occasionally in Thucydides (e.g., 1.90.2, 1.91.1, 5.47.6), but is almost without parallel in Latin (cf., however, Cic. *Mur.* 29 *in qua*; *De Or.* 2.5 *saepta*).” (Ramsey)
quam vēriissimē poterō: as... as I will be able; introducing a clause of comparison; superlative adv.; fut. *possum*, see p. 7 (Steadman).

dīcam: future tense.

L. (Volcacio) Tullo et M. (Aemilio) Lepido cōsulibus: ablative absolute. “coss. in 66 B.C.; Volcarius conducted the consular elections in that year, and on the advice of his *consilium* he announced that he would not accept Catiline's candidacy since he had been accused of abusing his power while serving as governor of Africa in 67 (Ascon. p. 89C). Not much is known about the activities of the other consul in this year, Manius Lepidus, a patrician, whose praenomen is invariably corrupted to M. (= Marcus) in the MSS.” (Ramsey)

P. (Cornelius) Sulla: “not to be identified with *P. Sulla, Servi filius* (17.3); Dio (36.44.3) calls him a nephew of the dictator L. Sulla; Cic. (*Off.* 2.29) styles him simply *propinquus*. He was married to Pompey's sister (Cic. *QFr.* 3.3.2) and was successfully defended by Cicero in 62 B.C. on a charge of being a member of the conspiracy. In return for this service, Cicero allegedly received a huge loan which he used to buy a mansion on the Palatine (Gellius 12.12.2ff.; *Fam.* 5.6.2). Sulla actively supported Caesar in the Civil War and was entrusted with the command of Caesar's right wing at the battle of Pharsalia in 48. Cicero rejoiced at the news of his death in 46 (*Fam.* 15.17.2). On his alleged participation in the first conspiracy, vid. App. II.” (Ramsey)

dēsīgnātī cōsulēs: consuls-elect; elected for the next term but not yet in office (Steadman).” S. deliberately reverses the normal word order in this standard expression, which is to be found at 50.4 and 51.18.. During the interval between the elections (usually held about mid-July) and Jan. 1st, when the consuls entered office, elected officials were immune from prosecution except on the charge of *ambitus*. This will explain the desire to block Catiline's intended candidacy in 66 until he could be tried for extortion.” (Ramsey)
legibus ambitus interrogati: “charged (lit., put to the question) under the law(s) governing corrupt electioneering.” The pl. *legibus* is merely rhetorical, as in Tac. (e.g., *Ann.* 3.33.4, 12.60.3, 15.20.3). The law in force at the time was passed by the consul C. Calpurnius Piso in

67 B.C. In addition to a stiff monetary fine, it imposed perpetual exclusion from the senate and disqualification from holding office (Dio 36.38.1; *Schol. Bob.* p. 78 St.).” (Ramsey)
lēgibus ambitūs: abl. means + gen. (Steadman)
poenās dederant: had paid the penalties (Steadman).
P. Sulla: not the same one as in 17.3. See OCD 400, s.v. "Cornelius Sulla, Publius".

(3)

post paulō: a little later; ‘later by a little,’ abl. of degree of difference (Steadman); “the abl. of degree of difference, *paulo*, would normally stand first. S. clearly implies that Catiline wished to stand at the supplementary election which was probably held in late October or November after the conviction of Autronius and Sulla. Some scholars, however, have argued that Catiline is more likely to have presented himself as a candidate at the regular election earlier in the year since his intended candidacy in 66 makes better sense if we assume that he sought the consulship at the earliest opportunity following his praetorship in 68. According to this view, carelessness has caused S. to misrepresent the correct sequence of events by mentioning Catiline's candidacy after the conviction of Sulla and Autronius, or else the text should be emended to *ante paulo*. Asconius' account of this affair (p. 89C) does not help to settle the controversy one way or the other. Two passages in Cic., however, tend to confirm S.'s chronology (*Cael.* 10; *Sull.* 68). The first implies that Catiline spent most of 66 abroad as governor of Africa, and the second reports an allegation that P. Sulla, after his conviction, recruited a band of armed men to help Catiline intimidate a rival candidate, L. Manlius Torquatus, who, we know, secured the consulship at the supplementary election.” (Ramsey).
pecuniarum repetundarum: “gen. of charge with *reus*; = “extortion,” a charge covering the misuse of power by a provincial governor (cf. 49.2, especially the unlawful acquisition of wealth at the expense of the provincials—hence lit., a suit for the “recovery of monies.”” (Ramsey).

reus: “possibly *reus* should be taken in the sense “threatened with prosecution” since Catiline was not formally charged until 65 B.C. (Ascon. p. 85C), and his trial was delayed until the summer of that year (Cic. *Att.* 1.1.1, 1.2.1).” (Ramsey)

quod: because...(Steadman)

intra legitimos dies: “before an assembly of the Roman people could be convened to vote on legislation or elect magistrates, the business of the assembly had to be announced at least a *trinum nundinum* in advance (Cic. *Dom.* 41, *Phil.* 5.8; Livy 3.35.1). The period known as a *trinum nundinum* is commonly assumed to consist of three eight-day weeks, each containing a market-day (*nundinae*). Apparently a candidate's formal *professio* had to be made prior to the announcement of the assembly so that his name could be included on the list of candidates when the date for the assembly was posted at least a *trinum nundinum* in advance of the elections (Cic. *Fam.* 16.12.3). The reason given here for Catiline's disqualification fits the chronology adopted by S. if we assume that Catiline was prevented from standing at the supplementary election because he had not been a candidate at the first election and had not, therefore, met the requirement of announcing his candidacy within the appropriate interval”. (Ramsey)

profitērī: i.e. his candidacy; dep. inf. (Steadman) “sc. *se consulatum petere* or *se candidatum consulatus*.” (Ramsey)

nequiverat: “all but two MSS read the subjn. *nequiverit*, which would make the statement in the *quod* clause an alleged reason—virtual indirect discourse (cf. 7.6n.)—rather than factual, but the pf. tense will not stand in secondary sequence. The verb *nequeo* (=non possum), which is frequently employed by S. (seven times in the *Cat.*), is slightly poetic and archaic.” (Ramsey).

(4)

"The elements of S.'s description so closely echo the features noted of Catiline's following as to give weight to the theory that from the moral standpoint S. viewed the state of mind which expressed itself ultimately in the rebellion of 63 as a continuing and long-implanted propensity." (McGushin, *ad loc.*)

eōdem tempore: abl. of time when, *īdem* (Steadman). "S. always prefers *tempore* to *tempestate* (cf. 7.1 n.) with *eodem*." (Ramsey)

Cn. (Calpurnius) Piso: "elected quaestor in 66 B.C., he took office on Dec. 5th (the Nones). In 65 he was sent out as *quaestor pro praetore* to govern Hither Spain (*ILS* 875). There was apparently a shortage of eligible governors in this year since Cicero and several of his colleagues in the praetorship in 66 declined provinces. Piso was an avowed enemy of Pompey (19.1; cf. Val. Max. 6.2.4)." (Ramsey).

summae audāciae: gen. of description (Steadman); "gen. of quality bracketed on either side by two adjectives that give first his age and social status and then his economic condition and disposition. The superlative indicates that *audacia* is pejorative here" (Ramsey)

factiosus: a favorite word of S.'s (9 times); used to describe overzealous partisan activity in a *factio* ("a power clique," ...; ultimately denoting a revolutionary or seditious disposition, =*seditiosus*." (Ramsey)

malī mōrēs: base character; 'habits' (Steadman); "the whole description of Piso is reminiscent of what was said earlier about Catiline himself (e.g., 5.7-8) and his other supporters (14)." (Ramsey).

(5)

cum hoc ... Hispanias mittere: "in spite of the paraphernalia of accuracy represented by the cluster of specific dates and the announcement of a specific programme for a coup, S.'s account of the conspiracy of 66 bristles with improbabilities— Appendix IV.

Catiline is reported (Cicero, *in Cat.* I.15) to have appeared armed in the Forum on Dec. 29, 66. This appearance has been associated with the riots connected with a lawsuit against C. Manilius the author of a bill conferring extraordinary powers on Pompeius (M. Gelzer, *RE* IIA.1696). Evidence for the rioting occurs in Asconius, 60, 66C; Cassius Dio, 36.44,1-2; Plutarch, *Cic.* 94ff. This appearance of Catiline may be the origin of his reported part in the story of Jan. 1." (McGushin)

cum hōc: i.e. with *Pīso* (Steadman).

Nōnās Decembris: i.e. December 5th (Steadman).

circiter Nonas Decembris: "this date, coupled with *Kal. Jan.* and *Non. Feb.*, presents a striking show of chronological accuracy in a writer who is normally so careless or even wilful in this regard. Moreover, only two other precise dates occur in the whole of his extant works (*BC* 17.1, 30.). Dating may have been used here to suggest an attempt at personal research, promised in *quam verissime potere*, to get the details of a distorted story straight." (McGushin).

cōnsiliō communicātō: abl. abs. (Steadman).

parābant: takes infinitives.

in Capitolio Kalendis Ianuariis: "since 153 B.C., the consuls entered office on January 1st and inaugurated their term with sacrifices and vows for the safety of the state during the coming year. This ceremony took place at the temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus, which stood on the Capitoline Hill above the Forum." (Ramsey)

Kalendīs: on the Kalends; abl. time when (Steadman)

ipsi: "nom. agreeing with *Catilina et Autronius*, the subject of *parabant*, which also governs *mittere*. It provides the logical subject of the following abl. absol. and calls attention to the division of roles after the first phase of the plot had been carried out in concert with

Piso (*cum hoc*), who now becomes the object of *mittere*. S. appears to follow Cicero (*Sull.* 67–68), who attempted to prove that his client Sulla did not participate with Autronius in this scheme to recover the consulship after their conviction and unseating for *ambitus* (vid. [App. II](#)). Livy (*Per.* 101), Suetonius (*Iul.* 9.1), and Dio (36.44.3) state that the plot was aimed at restoring the consulship to Autronius and Sulla.” (Ramsey)

fascibus correptis: abl. abs.; “the symbol (*fascēs*) stands by metonymy for the office itself (the consulship). The *fascēs* were bundles of wooden rods that were bound together by thongs and assigned to Roman magistrates as a symbol of their *imperium*. The number reserved for each office varied in proportion to the magnitude of *imperium* belonging to it. Each consul was accompanied by twelve lictors who bore a like number of *fascēs* before the consul whose turn it was to hold the active power of command. In the regal period, the rods were bound about an axe whose blade projected, but from an early date in the Republic the axe was removed from the *fascēs* when they were displayed within the boundary of the city out of regard for the Roman *populus*, which conferred the magistrate's *imperium*.” (Ramsey)

optinendas: the standard term for holding or administering a province as governor.

ad obtinendās..Hispaniās: for...; see line 4 (Steadman)

duas Hispanias: “since 197 B.C., Spain had been divided into two provinces, Hispania Citerior and Ulterior, which were normally governed at this time by ex-praetors. Eventually Piso received only one of these provinces.” (Ramsey)

Pisonem cum exercitu ... mittere: “S. is obviously inventing *ex eventu*. There is no doubt about the connection between Piso and Spain (19.1), but S. is the only one who makes this mission to Spain part of the programme of the alleged conspiracy. *duas Hispanias* is not consistent with 19.1, where S. correctly assigns only *Hispania Citerior* to Piso.” (McGushin, ad loc.)

(6)

Ea re cognita: ““the plot having been discovered”; unlike the previous abl. absol., the logical subject is obviously not the subject of the main vb. (*coniurati*—understood with *transtulerant*), but rather the “government” or the “Roman people.” According to Dio (36.44.4–5), the consuls were voted a bodyguard by the senate, but a tribune intervened to prevent the senate from adopting stronger measures against the conspirators. Cicero (*Sull.* 11–12, 81) mentions a body of advisors who assisted the consul Torquatus in investigating rumors of unrest in late 66 and early 65” (Ramsey)

rursus: ““again”—not strictly appropriate with *transtulerant*. They did not repeat an earlier postponement, but they did renew their preparations.” (Ramsey)

in Nōnās Februāriās: i.e. February 5th. “S. is the only author to mention the postponement to Feb. 5th. Possibly he was led to this conclusion by the variety of dates that he found in his sources. Different rumors were in circulation, some of which put the conspiracy in late Dec. 66, others in early 65 (e.g., Cic. *Cat.* 1.15; *Sull.* 68). S. seems to have attempted to make a coherent whole out of this patchwork. His reason for selecting Feb. 5th for the second plot is unknown, unless possibly he found this date mentioned in connection with the disturbances that occurred in 65 at the trial of the ex-tribune C. Manilius The Nones were *fasti*, so court cases could be heard. There is a plethora of precise dates given in this chapter compared with the work as a whole, which may reflect Sallust's effort to relate these events *quam verisime* (18.2).” (Ramsey)

transtulerant: “S. is fond of substituting the plupf. for an historic pf. in the course of a narrative passage. In this instance, he may be thinking ahead to the statement in the following sentence and assuming this as a point of reference in the past before which the action described by the plupf. occurred.” (Ramsey)

(7)

Iam tum: "'then on that occasion," as opposed to the previous plan, or="then already" looking ahead to the later conspiracy in 64–63 which aimed at the same goal." (Ramsey)

nōn modo...sed: not only...but (also) (Steadman).

cōsulibus, senātōribus: for...; dat. interest (Steadman).

plerisque senatoribus: "Cic. several times alleges that Catiline envisioned the slaughter of the *optimates*, i.e., the leading conservatives (*Tog. Cand.*, ap. Ascon. p. 92C; *Mur.*

81 *consilium senatus interficiendi*). This, combined with allusions to a plot merely against the consuls (e.g., *Sull.* 68), provides the substance for this expanded view of the conspirators' aims." (Ramsey)

(8)

quod nī: but if...not; 'as for this, if...' a connective relative and acc. of respect (Steadman); subjunctives in an unreal conditional sentence referring to past time.

maturasset ... dare: "virtually equivalent to *maturius dedisset*: "had given prematurely"—a rare meaning of *maturare*. Asconius (p. 92C) gives the same version as S., while Suetonius (*Iul.* 9.2) implicates Caesar and Crassus in this plot and states that the massacre was not carried out because Caesar did not give the appointed signal when Crassus failed to appear on the day set for the attack." (Ramsey)

prō: in front of... (Steadman)

curia: "the area known as the *Comitium* in front of the senate-house, the Curia Hostilia, in the northwest corner of the Forum." (Ramsey)

sociīs: to...; dat. ind. obj. (Steadman).

eō diē: on...; abl. of time when (Steadman).

mātūrā(vi)ssset, patrātum foret: if...had not..., would have been...; a past contrary to fact condition (*sī* plpf. subj., plpf. pass. subj.); *foret* is an old form for *esset* (Steadman)

patratum: "a solemn archaic verb, a favourite with S." (McGushin, *ad loc.*)

post conditam urbem: the leading idea is contained in the participle. "since the founding of the city of Rome; 'after the city Rome founded'" (Steadman).

patratum foret: "on *foret=esset ... patrare* ("to accomplish," "perpetrate") had come to be used in a vulgar or equivocal sense (Quint. 8.3.44). S. was apparently attracted by its archaic quality and revived its original neutral sense which occurs three times in the *Cat.* and six times in the *Jug.*" (Ramsey)

frequentes: "the adj. is to be taken predicately, "in great (i.e., sufficient) numbers."" (Ramsey)

(*et*) *ea rēs*: asyndeton, supply a conjunction (Steadman); "i.e., Catiline's overeagerness to give the signal." (Ramsey).