

Lead water pipes, fistulae, with raised lettering are found across the Roman world. Along the Bay of Naples many examples inscribed with the names of patrician, senatorial and imperial families have been discovered. These have been cited most commonly as evidence of senatorial land ownership, notably the villa residences of senators as studied by John D'Arms in his *Romans on the Bay of Naples* (Harvard 1970). New analysis suggests that many of these might also provide evidence of water rights for other uses such as baths, fountains or industrial installations. Unique among this group of dozens of elite individuals for the status of the person named is a set of three inscribed water pipes from along the Bay of Naples naming an otherwise unknown imperial freedman, Saecularis. Two of these are merely an abbreviated form of the name, SAECVL, in identical capitals while the third contains the full form of his name SAECVLARIS AUG. L. The name itself is very unusual in Latin onomastics and as a calendaric cognomen is highly dateable to a few select periods around the *ludi Saecularis*. The slave was certainly born during the year and perhaps during the celebration of one of the sets of games. When coupled with the status indication formula, the inscriptions are datable to the Augustan period making the birth of the slave in 17 BC, perhaps as precise as the period of the games from 31 May to 3 June. The status indicator proves that he was freed during Augustus' lifetime so AD 14 provides a terminus ante quem for their creation.

By themselves the fistulae represent evidence of the introduction of freedmen into the previously exclusive but now changing social and political world along the Bay of Naples that began under Augustus as documented by S.E. Ostrow, "Augustales along the Bay of Naples: A Case for their Early Growth," *Historia* 34 (1985): 64-101. 4. Saecularis is perhaps the earliest of the imperial freedmen who come to own villas in this desirable area as attested in Suet. *Aug.* 74, but rarely found in the epigraphical record. Of the 47 imperial period villa owners cited by D'Arms, none are freedmen. Additional evidence suggests that the fistulae might, instead, have served to supply an industrial facility. Two stamped lamp bases (*CIL* 10.8053, 178) in the National Archaeological Museum, Naples are marked SAECVL. These demonstrate the ownership of a lamp factory by this imperial freedman in the area, revealing at least one source of Saecularis' wealth. In combination the lamps and the fistulae reveal unique evidence of the life and livelihood of a sub-elite Roman along the Bay of Naples during a transformational period in its social and political development.