

C. IULIUS SPARTIATICUS,
“FIRST OF THE ACHAEANS”
A CORRECTION

IN A RECENT ARTICLE,¹ discussing the imperial cult instituted by the Achaean League in the mid-1st century after Christ, I made misguided use of the words *primo Achaeon* in line 9 of a Latin inscription from Corinth (*Corinth* VIII, ii, no. 68) to argue that the honorand, C. Iulius Spartiaticus of Sparta, was the first high priest of the cult. In fact, *primus Achaeon*, or πρῶτος Ἀχαιῶν, was no more or less than an honorific title bestowed by the League, comparable to πρῶτος Ἑλλήνων, a title conferred by the koinon of Asia, and so *primo Achaeon* cannot be taken, as I thought, with the immediately preceding (lines 8–9) *archieri domus Aug. [in] perpetuum*.² The chronological priority of Spartiaticus as high priest, however, is conclusively established by the Athenian inscription (Dittenberger, *SIG*³ 790) describing him (lines 2–7) as ἀρχιερέα Θεῶν Σεβαστῶν καὶ γένους Σεβαστῶν | ἐκ τοῦ κοινοῦ τῆς | Ἀχαΐας διὰ βίου πρῶτον τῶν ἀπ’ αἰῶνος:³ by another route my point is made. The view of Dittenberger, that these Θεοὶ Σεβαστοὶ are the first two emperors to become officially *divi* and that the title therefore indicates a date after the deification of the second (Claudius) in 54, would suit my argument but is not, unfortunately, conclusive.⁴

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¹ “Corinth, Argos and the Imperial Cult: Pseudo-Julian, *Letters* 198,” *Hesperia* 63, 1994 [pp. 211–232], pp. 218–220.

² See P. Veyne, “Augustal de l’an I.—Premier pontarque,” *BCH* 90, 1966 [pp. 144–155], p. 150. Nigel Kennell kindly drew this reference to my attention.

³ Veyne, *loc. cit.*

⁴ See P. Veyne, “Les honneurs posthumes de Flavia Domitilla et les dédicaces grecques et latines,” *Latomus* 21, 1962 [pp. 49–98], pp. 59–60, and note 2 on p. 60.