

A TRIBUTE TO GREATNESS

DMITRI A. BORGMANN
Dayton, Washington

More than two millenia have passed since the "brutal" murder of Julius Caesar. Such was the stature of this giant among men, however, that his influence continues to dominate our lives today.

We take our vacations in JULY, a month originally known as "Quintilis" but renamed for Julius Caesar because he was born in it. Our women are delivered of their young by CAESAREAN section, in the belief that Julius Caesar was so brought into the world. The calendar we use today, the Gregorian calendar, is merely a replacement for the JULIAN calendar, introduced into ancient Rome by Julius Caesar. What ordinary logologists call letter shifts or word shifts are known to cryptographers as CAESAR substitutions or CAESAR shifts, because alphabets were so enciphered by Julius Caesar and by his adopted son Octavius who subsequently became Augustus Caesar.

Most curious from a logological standpoint, however, is the series of names for rulers that has entered the English language and for which we have Julius Caesar to thank. Those that have come to my attention thus far follow:

CAESAR any Roman emperor following Augustus Caesar; any powerful ruler, emperor, or dictator

KAISER the sovereign of Austria from 1804 to 1918; the ruler of Germany from 1871 to 1918; the head of any ancient or medieval empire; any emperor

CZAR, TSAR, TZAR the ruler of Russia before the 1917 revolution; any emperor or king having absolute authority

CZAR, TSAR one having great power or absolute authority, a boss or dictator; a person to whom great authority is delegated, a baseball or movie star

QAISAR-I-HIND the Caesar of India: the official title of the sovereign of Great Britain, as ruler of India, first proclaimed in 1877 and discontinued when India became independent in 1947

Are there any other names for rulers overlooked in this survey?