A History of the Roman Equestrian Order

In the Roman social hierarchy, the equestrian order stood second only to the senatorial aristocracy in status and prestige. Throughout more than a thousand years of Roman history, equestrians played prominent roles in the Roman government, army and society as cavalrymen, officers, businessmen, tax-collectors, jurors, administrators and writers. This book offers the first comprehensive history of the equestrian order, covering the period from the eighth century BC to the fifth century AD. It examines how Rome’s cavalry became the equestrian order during the Republican period, before analysing how imperial rule transformed the role of equestrians in government. Using literary and documentary evidence, the book demonstrates the vital social function which the equestrian order filled in the Roman world, and how this was shaped by the transformation of the Roman state itself.

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A History of the Roman Equestrian Order

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Macquarie University, Sydney
For my parents
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A Note on Translations

Most translations of ancient literary works and documents in this book are my own, except where otherwise specified in the footnotes.
### Abbreviations

<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CIL</strong></td>
<td>Mommsen, T. et al. (eds.) (1862–present), <em>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</em>, Berlin.</td>
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List of Abbreviations

CLE

Corinth VIII.2

Corinth VIII.3

CTh.


FGrH

FHG

I. Ankara

I. Aph.

I. Didyma

I. Eph.

I. Ilion

I. Keramos

I. Magn.

I. Perge

I. Prusias
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**ORF**

**P. Berl. Leihg.**

**P. Berol.**

**P. Dura**

**P. Euphr.**

**P. Flor.**

**P. Giss.**

**P. Harr.**

**P. Hib.**

**P. Lond.**

**P. Mert.**

**P. Oxy.**
The *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, London (1898–present).

**P. Stras.**

**PLRE**
List of Abbreviations


PSI  Papiri greci e latini, Florence (1912–present).


SB  Shackleton Bailey, D. R. (ed.) (1965–80), Cicero’s Letters, 6 vols., Cambridge. (Shackleton Bailey’s numbering is cited in square brackets following the traditional reference.)


SEG  Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum, Leiden and Amsterdam (1923–present).


List of Abbreviations

TAM  
Tituli Asiae Minoris, Vienna (1901–present).

vdH²  

W. Chr.  