

## POWER AND PRIVILEGE IN ROMAN SOCIETY

How far were appointments in the Roman Empire based on merit? Did experience matter? What difference did social rank make? This innovative study of the Principate examines the career outcomes of senators and knights by social category. Contrasting patterns emerge from a new database of senatorial careers. Although the highest appointments could reflect experience, a clear preference for the more aristocratic senators is also seen. Bias is visible even in the major army commands, and in the most senior civilian posts nominally filled by ballot. In equestrian appointments, successes by the less experienced again suggest the power of social advantage. Senatorial recruitment gradually opened up to include many provincials, but Italians still kept their hold on the higher social groupings. The book also considers the senatorial career more widely, while a final section examines slave-careers and the phenomenon of voluntary slavery.

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IN ROMAN SOCIETY

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## *Preface*

An initial version of the equestrian chapters revealed interesting relationships between early postings and career outcomes (see Chapter 10).<sup>1</sup> This suggested an obvious need to look at the dynamics of the Roman promotion system more widely, and led to the present investigation of senatorial careers (Chapters 1–8 and Appendixes 1–7). A discussion of slave-careers is also included (Chapters 13 and 14).

I would like to thank Professor Anthony Birley and Professor Werner Eck very warmly for their generous help in answering my queries. For further kind help I must thank Dr Liana Chua, Dr Caillan Davenport, Professor Peter Garnsey, Professor Peter Mandler, Dr Alice Rio and Professor Brent Shaw. None of those named is responsible for any views expressed here.

<sup>1</sup> 'Who were the equites?', *Studies in Latin literature and Roman history*, 13 (2006): 183–223, revised in Chapters 9–12.

## Abbreviations

<i>AE</i>	<i>Année épigraphique</i>
<i>BNP</i>	<i>Brill's New Pauly</i>
<i>Clauss-Slaby Datenbank</i>	<a href="http://db.edcs.eu/epigr/epi_de.php">http://db.edcs.eu/epigr/epi_de.php</a>
<i>Cod. Just.</i>	<i>Codex Justinianus</i>
<i>Cod. Theod.</i>	<i>Codex Theodosianus</i>
CP	Pflaum, H-G. <i>Carrières procuratoriennes équestres</i> , Paris 1960–1
<i>Dig.</i>	<i>Digesta Justiniani</i>
<i>EOS</i>	<i>Epigrafia e ordine senatorio</i> , 1–2, Rome 1982
<i>ILS</i>	Dessau, H. <i>Inscriptiones Latinae selectae</i> , Berlin, 1892–1916
Mommsen <i>DP</i>	Th. Mommsen, <i>Le droit public romain</i> , Paris 1887–91
<i>PME</i>	Devijver, H. <i>Prosopographia Militiarum equestrium</i> , 1–5, Louvain 1976–2001
<i>RE</i>	Pauly-Wissowa <i>Realenkyklopädie</i>
Syme <i>RP</i>	Syme, R. <i>Roman Papers</i> 1–7, Oxford 1979–91

For abbreviations of other collections of inscriptions, see *Clauss-Slaby*.