

Roman Military Tribunes I



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Roman Military Tribunes (First Century BC to Third Century AD): A Historical and Prosopographical Study

Volume I

Prosopographical Catalogue, Part 1

Roman Military Tribunes (*tribuni militum in exercitu*)
and in the Garrison of the Roman Capital
(*tribuni militum in praetorio*)

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Foreword

Roman Military Tribunes is a historical and prosopographical study of Roman military tribunes who served in such a rank between the first century BC and the third century AD, and is presented in three volumes. Volumes I and II contain the prosopographical catalogue in two parts, after which Volume III offers an analysis of the evolution of the rank of military tribune.

This volume (I) presents a catalogue of 285 Romans who served in the army and held the military rank of tribune, divided into two main groups. The first of these, which is entitled *Tribuni militum in exercitu*, i.e. military tribunes in the army, contains the biographies of 133 military tribunes who were to receive their appointment during first century BC and the first century AD. This group of Roman officers includes those whose later status – later after the reforms of Augustus – would qualify them to serve as senatorial *tribuni laticlavii*, and a much more numerous group who, as *equites* would have qualified to serve as *tribuni angusticlavii*. At this point it should be emphasized that not all known officers who held this rank who lived during this period have been included in the first part of the catalogue, and those omitted here will be included Volume II.

The second group of individuals dealt with in this volume, containing 152 biographical entries in total, entitled *Tribuni militum in praetorio*, features Roman military tribunes who, between the first century BC and the third century AD, who were assigned to serve in the *cohortes praetoriae*, *cohortes urbanae*, *cohortes vigilum* and *equites singulares Augusti*. These formations formally belonged to the Roman military system, although they had a special status. As they alone were stationed on Italian soil, they formed the garrison in Rome, and served to protect the person of the Emperor, (i.e. in praetorio Augusti).

It has been the intention of the author in the present study to analyse the biography of each Roman military tribune mentioned above in a reliable and all-inclusive manner, without forgetting the historical context in which the person in question lived and rose in his *cursus honorum*. For this reason, each of the biographies of individual Roman military tribunes included the following elements, the sources and bibliography, his origin and years of life, his service and career path, an analysis of his ancestral background and family relationships, and a commentary. It is on the basis of the research questions thus formulated that an attempt has been made to provide a comprehensive biography of each of these Roman officers. The completeness of each of these individual biographical reconstructions was determined by the state of the source material and subsequent literature that I was able to access.

The tribunes appearing in the catalogues are listed in alphabetical order according to family affiliation. In the individual entries, after the name follows a note as to their *origo* and tribal affiliation if known, as well as an indication of the period in which they lived. This is followed by an outline of their path of service and promotion, outlining its stages, the nature of the functions and offices held, placing them against the broader historical and legal background specific to the time in which they were held. The next section shows the family relations of each individual being studied, where known or identifiable, including succeeding generations. An attempt is made to illustrate the socio-legal advancement of the representatives of the family the tribune belonged to, in some cases by adoption. Both in the section dealing directly

with the career of the individual and in the ‘commentary’, attempts are made to assess the material advancement achieved by the given Roman military tribune. By analysing the biographies of individual Roman military tribunes in this way, it is possible to give a fairly comprehensive account of the phenomenon of tribunician service, and the significance of this particular category of Roman officers, in terms of their contribution to the institutions of the Roman state and army.

This volume will shortly be followed by a second volume dealing with the second part of the prosopographical catalogue, containing the biographies of those military tribunes serving in the legions alone, together with those of some tribunes living in the first centuries BC and AD not found in Volume I of the work. The third and final volume of the study will be an analysis of the evolution of the rank of military tribune. In the Republican Period tribunes must be considered as holding an ‘office’ rather than a military rank (*gradus*). The status and social origins of military tribunes, their family connections and interpersonal relationships, as well as their conditions and length of service, will be subjected to detailed analysis.

This study would not have been possible without my receiving a research grant funded by the resources of the National Science Centre (Poland) no. DEC-2017/25/B/HS 3/02078, entitled ‘Roman Officers holding the Rank of military Tribune from 1st Century B.C. to the 3rd Century A.D. Historical-prosopographical Study’), for which I would like once again to thank the authorities of the National Science Centre in Kraków. I would also like to apologize for the prolongation of my research on my research topic and the resulting delays in its publication.

Thanks to this grant, I had the opportunity to carry out research abroad, in the American Academy in Rome, and in the Institute of Classical Studies in London. I would especially like to thank the staff of the University of London’s Hellenic and Roman Library for their help with the collections.

I would like to express my undying gratitude to Professor Gian Luca Gregori, Head of the Department Scienze dell’Antichità at Sapienza Università di Roma, for his critical, extremely insightful and very important comments on the content of the biographies of the various Roman military tribunes I have presented in this prosopographical volume. Any errors that have persisted, however, are of course mine alone.

I would like to express my immense and lifelong gratitude to Professor Nicholas Victor Sekunda, Head of the Department of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Gdansk, for his help in translating the present volume into English, and for his critical and valuable substantive comments on the content of my text.

Of course I am responsible for any remaining errors. I am immensely grateful to the authorities of Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, Oxford, for accepting the present work for publication, and ensuring that it appears in printed form as well as electronically under the Gold Open Access scheme.

My thanks for their assistance go to the authorities of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, my Alma Mater, which is celebrating the 80th anniversary of its foundation this year 2024.

The writing of this paper would not have been possible without the opportunity to use online the collections of inscriptions that are held in two epigraphic databases, the Electronic Archive of Greek and Latin Epigraphy (EDR Epigraphic Database Roma) [<http://www.edr-edr.it/>], and the Epigraphik Datenbank ClaussSlaby [<http://www.manfredclaus.de/>] and Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg [<https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/>].