

## **Abstract**

### **Thesis title: Magisterial powers in Ancient Rome in the period of Principate**

The aim of this thesis is to provide a systematic overview of the image of the Imperial administration and palace offices during the times of the Principate during the first three centuries of Common Era.

Their enumeration, powers and administrative agenda are described chronologically according to their presumed and documented origin in the reigns of the respective Emperors and dynasties, together with the most significant administrative policy and reforms of individual sovereigns. The description of the Imperial cabinet is set to a basic historical context, which sheds more light on the eventual motivation and reasoning behind the creation or abolition of individual offices or the enactment of the appropriate reform since the ascension of Octavianus to the throne until the overview of fundamental changes of state administration during the reign of Diocletianus.

The Imperial administration played a significant role during the principate era. Although it was not officially institutionalized until the reign of Claudius and its image and organisation was not perfected until Hadrianus during the second century CE, since the very beginning of the Principate, the imperial magistracies helped with the development of the Empire as an essential support to the rulings of individual Emperors. Especially the large offices *ab epistulis*, *a rationibus*, *a libellis* and later *a memoria* had a significant influence on the internal politics and their heads then in the Emperor's council.

What Octavianus started with his reforms culminated during the reigns of later Emperors with a professional administrative personnel, which was able to manage the Empire efficiently and gradually replaced the old and inefficient republican magistracies. The creation of this administrative net also caused changes in the social system of Roman society, when it brought significant benefits first to the Imperial slaves and freedmen and later to the Roman knights, who began to occupy the majority of important positions. These changes gradually led to the weakening of the position of the Senate, which later could not defy the Emperor, thus easing the transition to the structures of the Dominate. The role of the Imperial administration for the stabilization of the Roman Empire during the times of crises and civil wars is undisputed and the position of the Imperial cabinet, while studying the development of the Roman Empire, should not be overlooked.