

# **Roman officials during the Republic**

## **Abstract**

This thesis was created with the aim to provide a comprehensive look into the problematics of Roman magistracies in the republican times. Apart from the listing of individual republican offices and their powers, which constitutes the crux of this thesis, it also grapples many questions closely connected to the concept of Roman republican magistracies, including questions of sociopolitical and legal nature. Attention is also given to historical and societal circumstances that have led to the creation of individual magistracies, rules governing holding these offices, their acquisition and resignation and furthermore the relationship between individual magistracies regarding the course of offices.

The opening chapter deals with the term Roman magistracy itself and later with the principles governing magistracies as a whole as well as the division of offices into groups based on certain criteria. Likewise, the Roman course of offices – *cursus honorum* is an important part of the chapter as well as the insignia and privileges of the office that distinguished Roman magistrates from the ordinary citizens.

The next two chapters deal with candidacy, campaigning for office and the criteria, that each candidate had to successfully fulfil to be voted into office. The latter part of this section deals with acquiring and resigning offices.

The fourth and the fifth chapter are dedicated to the magistracies themselves. Firstly the lesser and plebian magistracies, i.e. Vigintisexvirate, Quaestorship, Aedileship and the Tribune of the Plebs and secondly the higher magistracies – Praetorship, Consulship and Censorship. The offices are listed in the order in which they were usually held at the end of the republican era. This order was purely facultative and was not strictly adhered to, not even in the times when the course of offices was codified into law.

Chapter six deals with extraordinary and military offices, whether they were a part of the roman constitutional system for much of the duration of the republic, such as the office of the dictator, or they replaced the highest elected office of the state, like the office of consular tribunes. Part of this chapter is also dedicated to military officers, who were like the other

magistrates, at least partially elected on the assemblies of the people and whose service oftentimes preceded candidacy for one of the lesser magistracies.

The seventh chapter is dedicated to the substitution of the elected magistrates, whether this was done via special institutions created for this reason, like the office of the City Prefect and the *Interregnum*, or the delegation of magisterial powers onto a private citizen.

The final chapter covers the evolution of republican magistracies during the times of the Principate and how were these offices adapted into the new establishment. During this time, some magistracies were abolished while others survived for many centuries right into the Early Middle Ages.

**Key words: Roman Republic, magistracies, officials, state administration**