

Description for the general public

The class of officers referred to as “tribunes” (“tribunus” – “tribuni”), according to the Roman tradition, is believed to appear already in the period of the kingdom. In the 5th cent. BC the so-called “clan tribunes” were replaced by military tribunes elected for the post by tribus gathering (*viz.* tribuni militum a populo-comitia tributa) or nominated by Roman commanders (consuls, praetors) on their own initiative (*viz.* tribuni militum rufuli). The division of the society during the period of the republic, based on census, determined not only the procedure of recruitment of low-rank legionnaires, but also of filling specific military offices and posts. The rank of the military tribune was granted to both equestrians (*ordo equester*), as well as senators’ sons. As already mentioned, there were two paths of nomination for the post (*viz.* lex Atilia Marcia – lex de tribunis militum senis a populo creandis – lex Sempronia). In the period of civil wars – from the second half of the 1st cent. BC – the promotion to the rank of military tribune in legions and tribune of cohort in “cohors praetoria” (*tribunus cohortis praetoriae*) was granted more and more often to ex-centurions, especially former “primipilares”. Despite the fact that in the period of the empire the census-based division of the society was still in force, the princeps had the decisive say in the classification into “*ordo equester*” and consequently in the nomination to the rank of tribune in legions and the units belonging to the so-called Roman garrison.

In the monograph planned the author intends to present the subject matter in terms of, among others, the following aspects: officers in the rank of tribunes in the Roman army in the late republic (their status and provenience, conditions and time of duty, functions, tasks, and privileges); military tribunes in legions and the units of the Roman garrison in the period of the empire (characterization of *tribuni laticlavii*, *angusticlavii*, *tribuni cohortium* – their recruitment and status, provenience, conditions of duty, the scope of authority, tasks performed, interpersonal relations at the level of military units and with civilians, the place of tribune’s rank within “*militiae equestres*”, the influence of employment policy of Roman emperors on the career of military tribunes, careers of former tribunes after active military service).

The project will undertake a detailed and incisive evaluation of historical sources. It is the author’s intention to analyze particular aspects of the topic with the use of all sources available. These include literary works, epistles, epigraphic and papyrological materials, and legal texts.

Only comprehensive analysis of the above-mentioned sources offers a chance to investigate the subject matter in the title of the project proposed in a critical, conscientious, and detailed way.