

The aim of the project is a cross-disciplinary analysis of the insignia of the Roman officers in the *Notitia Dignitatum*, the list of senior government offices in the Eastern and Western Roman Empires from around 400 CE, which is one of the basic sources of our knowledge concerning Roman administration and the organization of the Roman army in late antiquity. The register also provides a fundamental iconographic source concerning the insignia of authority of late Roman dignitaries, as well as the late Roman imperial ideology. The primary scientific purpose of the project is to establish the legal importance of the insignia and the details presented in them, exploring their versions preserved in the late medieval and early Renaissance manuscripts of the *Notitia Dignitatum*, mainly in the so-called primary copies of the lost Carolingian manuscript *Codex Spirensis*. Currently researchers presume that the emblems in the register were made in accordance with Late Antique canons of decorative art, and they differ only slightly between the primary witnesses of the *Spirensis*. Previous scholarly discussion concerning the insignia of the *Notitia Dignitatum* focused mainly on their significance for art history as well as on the meaning of the emblematic details in the separate manuscripts and their relevance for the understanding of imperial Roman ideology. Thanks the publishing of the digital versions of many of the copies of the *Spirensis* have been made available online in recent years, which is why now the insignia can be compared in greater detail and more broadly than previously; these versions are going to constitute the essential material examined in the project. Past studies of the insignia were conducted mainly by art historians or Roman studies experts, while the scholars focusing on Roman law, were interested chiefly in the text of the *Notitia Dignitatum* and its significance for the reconstruction of the administrative framework of late Roman empire. The analysis of the insignia in the *Notitia Dignitatum* may yield more data regarding on the legal status of the Roman imperial officers and the scope of their responsibilities. Thus, the project is intended to supplement the knowledge regarding in both respects. Its aim is also to answer why the *Notitia Dignitatum* was made and what role its illustrations played in relation to the text of the register. The matter requires very thorough and wide-ranging source research, including the manuscripts of the *Notitia Dignitatum* and their editions, other sources regarding late Roman officials and the literature of the subject. The tasks in the project include the building a collection of digital copies of the insignia of Roman officials known from the primary copies of the *Spirensis*, comparing of the common details of the insignia, as well as examining the details which are found only in a minority of the emblems, checking the differences among the different copies need to be verified and, finally, conclusions need to be drawn concerning the legal significance of the insignia in the *Notitia Dignitatum*. The prospective study in English will be the main result of the project, though it will also involve submission of a few minor studies, while preliminary findings will also be presented at international and domestic conferences. Thanks to its cross-disciplinary nature, the project expands the perspectives of traditional Roman law studies. The holistic approach to the insignia in the *Notitia Dignitatum* is indeed a novelty in the studies of the subject. Combined with other currents of historical studies, it is expected to yield the necessary material for further historical and legal-historical reflections, and in particular to the role of symbolic representations in late antiquity.