

MILITARY TRIBUNATE IN THE CAREERS OF ROMAN
SENATORS OF THE SEVERAN PERIOD. PART 4:
GOVERNORSHIPS OF PRAETORIAN AND CONSULAR
PROVINCES

by

DANUTA OKOŃ

ABSTRACT: Under the Principate, senatorial governorships of provinces were either of the praetorian or the consular rank. A military tribunate in the *cursus honorum* facilitated the award of the governorship of a province with legions, and subsequently a consulship and a proconsulship of either Asia or Africa. Although the military tribunate was not a compulsory office, its impact was evident at all stages of a senatorial career.

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This paper is the fourth in a series of publications devoted to the senatorial careers of former military tribunes of the Severan period¹. In the previous three papers (also published in “Eos”)², I identified 123 such senators and analysed their biographic entries. My detailed analysis included: the circumstances in which they attained the tribunate and the consequences of attaining the position; special awards received by the tribunes (*dona militaria*, *adlectiones*, *commendatio Augusti*); and higher military commands held by them (*legatus legionis*, *praepositus*, *dux*).

In this part, I would like to analyse whether (and if so, what) impact holding a military tribunate had on the subsequent assumption of governorships of different ranks – praetorian and consular. Holding governorships was often associated with the need to manage the legions of the province and the auxiliary troops stationed in it, so being a tribune at the beginning of one’s career and the experience gained from holding this post could have an impact on a military tribune’s further promotion. Given the opportunity of analysing the *cursus* of senators, I would like to determine the extent to which holding the governorship of a province could affect the chances of attaining a consulship (*suffectus* or *ordinarius*). To get a more complete picture, my studies included all offices of the praetorian

¹ The military tribunate of some senators is dated to the times of the last Antonines. As senators living under the Severans, they were the subject of my studies, as were those whose careers continued after AD 235.

² OKOŃ 2019, 2020 and 2021.