

## **Mobility at the crossroad: careers and progression during the transition from Domitian to Trajan**

The theme of Domitian's *damnatio memoriae* has been widely studied, but less attention has been paid to a related subject: the careers' mobility during the difficult transition from Domitian to Trajan. Though after the death of Domitian in Rome there was a great disorder (*ταραχή*), as the Severan historian Cassius Dio (D.C. 68.1.3) says, *ἐκ τοῦ πάντας πάντων κατηγορεῖν* ("by the fact that everybody was accusing everybody else"), the major part of senators and equestrians continued their careers without interruption, as has been shown by J. Crook in *Consilium Principis. Imperial Councils and Counsellors from Augustus to Diocletian* (1955) and K.H. Waters in *Traianus Domitiani Continuator* (1969): the epigraphical and literary sources show that, not without contradictions, there were no breaks for their progress, although they got involved in the political and cultural activities of Domitian's reign. In some cases, they participated in the construction of the negative tradition about the emperor, because, as recently has been stated, they condemned Domitian to un-damn themselves. Even though the majority of these men decided to delete their relationship with him during this progression, there are cases in which the connection with the emperor was not broken, as has been shown by the inscriptions where the name of the emperor was not erased: I propose to explore this link between social mobility, as the meaning of their status' advance, and memory during the transition from Domitian to Trajan through a specific analysis of epigraphical and literary documents.

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