

13th Conference of the FIEC (August 24th - 29th, 2009)

Panel: 10. Epigraphical Documents: Reflection of Reality or Construction of Historical Knowledge?

Title : A possible lacuna in the Roman *Fasti Consulares*, 444-367 BC

Abstract:

Until recently, the *Fasti Consulares*, Roman list of eponyms, has been considered originating from a single source. Jörg Rüpke challenges the authentic character of its early part arguing the consulate to be associated with the calendar in the early second century BC. The list of consuls was built by Roman annalists on the basis of pontifical annual records, noble families' memoirs, and chronological constructions of earlier historians. The paper points at the period between 444 and 367 BC, when in the list consuls are replaced by military tribunes. First, I argue that the tribunate could not be eponymous office and the so-called consular tribunes were a historiographic fiction rather, than high officers of the Republic. Second, I assume that the list of military tribunes was used to fill up a gap, which existed in the eponymous list of consuls. Third, I suppose that the lacuna could be the result of a discrepancy between the starting date of the eponymous list (509 BC) and the real number of consular pairs.

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