

Legionary Centurions in Trajan's Dacia
from the Promotion's System Perspective.

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- abstract -

The conquest wars gathered in Dacia and around of it a great number of legions, so the amount of centurions who can be found here in this period is undoubtedly important. The careers of 10 centurions are especially interesting because the informations about them coming out from the epigraphic sources are more detailed and particularly because of the transfers mentioned in their inscriptions. These careers reveal us aspects of military life: advancements, transfers, wars, decorations, from a very short period of time – approximately 20 years – abundant in military events.

Referring only to the Trajan's reign, we can notice that in a period including two major wars (the Dacian and the Parthic wars), when the troupes' shifts are intensifying, when new legions are setting up, when some soldiers are dying and others are retired after a long military career, the number of vacant posts necessary to be occupied increases considerable, thus the transfer-promotion process from one legion to another, from one province to another and across the Empire, is one as natural as can be.

The army's constant necessity of professional military staff, on the one hand, and the soldiers' general aim of improving their material and social condition, on the other hand, make this promotion-transfer process to be advantageous for both, institution and individuals.