

Summary

THE COURT ON THE MOVE. SOME QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MOBILITY OF THE ROMAN IMPERIAL COURT

The Roman imperial court was virtually inseparable from Emperor's person. As such, it inevitably accompanied any Emperor on his travels within the Empire. In the late 3rd century, after Rome had lost its status as the imperial city, many other cities began to serve as residences of Emperors, who found themselves frequently on the move. An obvious question concerns possible motivations of Emperors to travel. Energetic Emperors usually did travel to personally attend places of crises or make sure that their policies were duly implemented. Up to the late 2nd century, however, their travels were not politically imperative. Also, we may well ask ourselves, whether every member of the court had to be on the move along with the Emperor, especially in conditions of the late 3rd and early 4th centuries, when the court experienced a rapid growth in size. Our sources supply only meagre informations, leaving us with mere guesswork for answering this question. For the same reason, the questions of speed, frequency or difficulties of such travels are open to speculations, too.

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