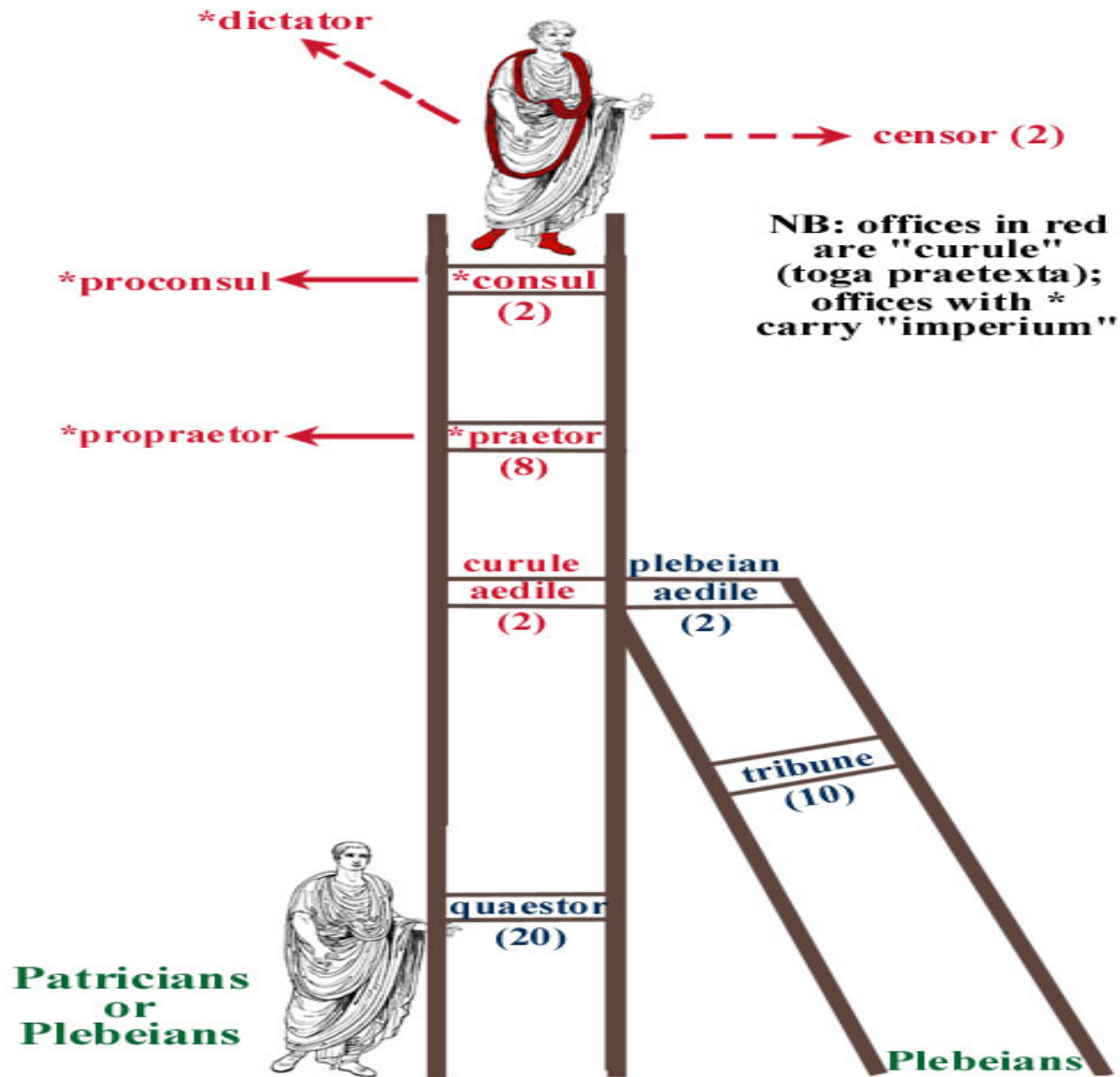


Officii de Re Publica

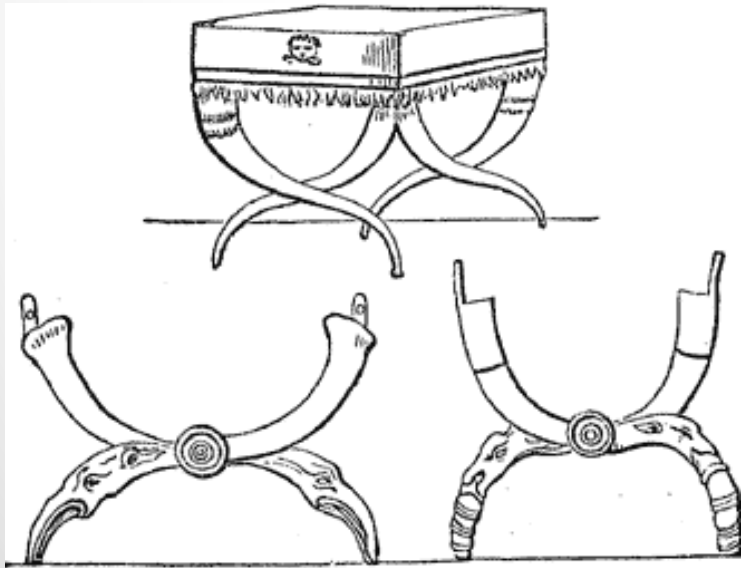
ROMAN CURSUS HONORUM



Principles of Structure

- *Imperium*
 - ability to command an army
 - power to interpret and carry out the law
 - some could pass sentences of death
- *Sella Curulis* and *Toga Praetexta*
 - Certain offices (note the red on the chart) were allowed special rights
 - *Sella Curulis* – ivory folding stool
 - only those labeled “curule” could use this stool
 - *Toga Praetexta* – toga with a purple border
 - only those with positions of power could wear this color

Sella(e) Curulis



consul, consulis

- How Often Elected:
 - Every year
- How Many Elected:
 - 2
- Description of Office:
 - Chief executives; each serve as a check for the other
 - convened and presided over the Senate and assemblies,
 - initiated and administered legislation,
 - served as generals in military campaigns
 - represented Rome in foreign affairs
- Notes:
 - Highest step in the *Cursus Honorum*
 - When finished office: proconsul

praetor, praetoris

- How Often Elected:
 - Every year
- How Many Elected:
 - 8
- Description of Office:
 - Judges in the courts
 - Could convene the Senate and assemblies
 - Administrative duties of consuls when these were absent from Rome
- Extra Notes:
 - Second highest step in the Cursus Honorum
 - When finished in office: proprator

quaestor, quaestoris

- How Often Elected:
 - Every year
- How Many Elected:
 - 20
- Description of Office:
 - Public Treasurers
 - Served in various capacities in the provinces
- Extra Notes:
 - First step in the *Cursus Honorum*
 - When elected, automatically became eligible for membership in the Senate
 - Censor had to appoint him first to fill a vacancy

aedilis, aedilis

- How Often Elected:
 - Every year
- How Many Elected:
 - 4
 - 2 required to be plebian
 - Other two from either order (these were called the *curule aediles*)
- Description of Office:
 - Organized: public games, amusements, public works, markets, streets, etc.
- Extra Notes:
 - Not a requirement for the *Cursus Honorum*, so why would it be so popular an office?
 - Used to gain popularity

tribunus, tribuni

- How Often Elected:
 - Every year
- How Many Elected:
 - 10
- Description of Office:
 - Right to veto any decree or law passed by the Senate or the Assemblies
 - They were *sacrosanct*
 - Could convene the Senate and assemblies and initiate legislation
- Extra Notes:
 - Could be held only by those of the Plebian Class

lictor, lictoris

- How Often Elected:
 - Not an elected position, but personally chosen by the magistrate
- How Many Elected:
 - Depends on the position:
 - Consul: 12 Proconsul: 11
 - Praetor: 6 Proprætor: 5
 - Aediles: 2 Quaestor: 1
- Description of Office:
 - Essentially a bodyguard for magistrates
- Extra Notes:
 - Were responsible for holding the *fascēs*, a bundle of rods that were a symbol of the power of the magistrate



ROMAN CURSUS HONORUM

