

## THE *ALBUM SENATORIUM* OF THE SEVERAN PERIOD – RESEARCH PROBLEMS\*

by

DANUTA OKOŃ

ABSTRACT: The paper is a research report presenting the 292 new senators of the Severan period who should be added to the list compiled by BARBIERI in 1952. The analysis of this new album leads to the conclusion that the Senate of that period consisted of about 900–1000 members.

Commencing my research on the senatorial order of the Severan period (193–235), I assumed that my research priority should be the creation of a complete *album senatorium* illustrative of the then elite of the Roman Empire. Research on such an album turned out to be a necessity, particularly as the last known monograph on the subject, by G. BARBIERI entitled *L'albo senatorio da Settimio Severo a Carino (193–285)*, was published as early as 1952 and is thus out-of-date. The effects of my research on the subject in question demonstrate that undertaking such a work was indispensable. The new album<sup>1</sup> that has resulted from the said work offers answers to two recurring questions, namely, how many senators of the Severan period do we know of, and how many members comprised the Senate in the final years of the Early Empire?

According to a preliminary research assumption, the number of senators in the period under discussion oscillated between 1200 and 1800. This number has been acknowledged as in the literature on the subject, namely, that the then Senate comprised 600–900 persons<sup>2</sup>, and that in the course of the 42 years of the Severan rule only one change of generation occurred.

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\* I have been conducting research on the senatorial order of the Severan period under the auspices of the Polish National Science Centre (NCN). The project “The Album of Senators from the Age of Severan Dynasty (AD 193–235)” has been financed from the funds provided by the National Science Centre on the basis of decision No. DEC-2011/01/B/HS3/01273. This article constitutes a report of the work conducted using the above mentioned grant.

<sup>1</sup> The album will be published in 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Since the Senate began functioning, the number of its members had been on the increase. This natural process was associated with the social and territorial development of the Roman state. In the early royal period, the Senate, traditionally, comprised 100 members; in the late royal period