
Of Mice and Men. Financial and Occupational Differentiation among *Augustales

*Des souris et des hommes. Différenciation financière et professionnelle parmi les *Augustales*

Lindsey Vandevoorde



Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/mondesanciens/1534>

DOI: 10.4000/mondesanciens.1534

ISSN: 2107-0199

Publisher

UMR 8210 Anthropologie et Histoire des Mondes Antiques

Electronic reference

Lindsey Vandevoorde, « Of Mice and Men. Financial and Occupational Differentiation among *Augustales », *Cahiers « Mondes anciens »* [Online], 7 | 2015, Online since 21 December 2015, connection on 20 April 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/mondesanciens/1534> ; DOI : 10.4000/mondesanciens.1534

This text was automatically generated on 20 April 2019.



Les Cahiers « Mondes Anciens » sont mis à disposition selon les termes de la licence Creative Commons Attribution - Pas d'Utilisation Commerciale - Pas de Modification 4.0 International.

Of Mice and Men. Financial and Occupational Differentiation among *Augustales

*Des souris et des hommes. Différenciation financière et professionnelle parmi les *Augustales*

Lindsey Vandevoorde

But little Mouse, you are not alone,
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes of mice and men
Go often awry,
And leave us nothing but grief and pain,

For promised joy!

- 1 These few stanzas from Robert Burns' poem "To a Mouse", written in 1785, were the inspiration for the title of John Steinbeck's 1937 novella "Of Mice and Men". In a way, they denote many of the elements I wish to draw attention to: seeking to associate with peers, acting based on anticipation, and strategies set out by candidate-**augustales* that may or may not succeed. I was asked to discuss **augustales* and their economic role in the large commercial hubs of the Roman Empire. However, a discussion of their professional interest would only sketch a partial picture. Therefore, I will elaborate on **augustales* from Italy and Gaul involved in the local economies in the broadest sense.
- 2 Although the first academic discussion of **augustales* dates back to the mid-nineteenth century,¹ after almost two centuries of excellent research, the difficulty of fully comprehending "the" **augustales* remains. Most scholars agree on the basics: the title **augustalis* (and all its 40 local variants found throughout the Roman Empire) refers to an honorary position in local society, and was mostly bestowed on wealthy freedmen who, because of their servile birth, could not partake in the official *cursus honorum*. The

nomination itself and the allotment of any further privileges or honours connected to it were done by the city council. Difficulties reside in the unclear terminology (*sevir augustalis* – *augustalis* – *magister augustalis* – *sevir* etc.),² the complicated organogram with local varieties (association – office – honorary title), and especially the lack of (literary) sources. The “**augustalis*” (with asterisk) is a shorthand term invented by Duthoy to cover the wide variety of local titles and to amalgamate the different institutional realities.³

- 3 One leitmotif here is the question of whether the wealth of **augustales* aided them in enlarging their social network or in obtaining an honorific position, and therefore furthered their integration in local society. In other (Bourdieuian) words: did the economic, social, and symbolic capital of individual **augustales* reinforce each other?⁴
- 4 The first section of this paper concerns itself with the importance of occupational and geographical differentiation. How were occupational titles important for the expression of their social status? Are there any differences between the “regular” attestations of professions and those who recorded membership of a professional association? Which professions were common among **augustales*? In which economic sectors do we encounter them? Are there indications of localised specialisation or geographical differentiation? Were **augustales* involved in the imperial grain dole, the *annona*?
- 5 The second section discusses which expenditures and benefactions express the wealth of **augustales*, a proxy for their economic potential. How often do epigraphic attestations offer information on the role of **augustales* as benefactors in their cities (and sometimes beyond)? What was the magnitude and typology of the gift? Besides benefactions, other ways were available to **augustales* to stress the size of their economic capital. Did expenditures and benefactions overlap? How does this relate to other honours and/or privileges taken up by these **augustales*?
- 6 This research is based on a corpus of 1711 inscriptions recording Italian and Gallic **augustales* – i.e. from the Italian peninsula, Gallia Narbonensis and Gallia Lugdunensis.⁵ In 242 of these inscriptions, **augustales* occur in a plural form (*augustales*, *augustalium*, *augustalibus*, *sevir* etc.), recording actions performed by these men as a group instead of mentioning individuals. The remaining 1469 inscriptions attest 1629 individuals, of which 1484 record at least a part of their names, and 145 are anonymous. All discussions below are based on the corpus of 1469 inscriptions of individual **augustales*. Of these inscriptions, 114 record the profession of **augustales* (48 “direct” titles, 66 “indirect” titles, see below) and 633 mention expenditures and benefactions.

Occupational Differentiation

The Importance of Professional Titles

- 7 In his famous passage in *De Officiis*, Cicero considered certain professions as “undesirable” for a respectable man (i.e. tax-gatherers and usurers), and other occupations as downright “vulgar” (*sordidus*). Among these *sordidi* he listed wage labourers, merchants and traders. Worst of all are “those trades which cater for sensual pleasures”: fishermen, fishmongers, butchers, cooks, poulterers, perfumers and dancers.⁶ On the other hand, some professions are “suitable for those whose social position they become”. Occupations that require a higher degree of intelligence or are to the advantage of society in general, are acceptable. He lists medicine, architecture and teaching. Trade on a large scale is acceptable; on a small scale it is a vulgar profession because it distributes many goods to

many customers. Nothing is more becoming of a free man, however, than agriculture.⁷ Cicero's discourse, although theoretical and of limited practical value for an analysis of professions, reflects a strong connection of the economic and the social sphere. Some professions are unbecoming for a high social status; others are even considered vulgar and (Cicero implies) should only be practiced by men of low esteem.

*

- 8 Almost 8%, or 114 inscriptions of individual **augustales* recovered from Italy and Roman Gaul (n=1469), record a profession. Attestations of professions are the exception, but manifestly show the importance of the occupation in the self-definition of the historical actor in question. Professional titles existed in two variants: (1) an actual profession, which specifies a certain trade (a "direct" title), and (2) membership of a professional *collegium* (an "indirect" title). Out of the 1469 inscriptions of individual **augustales* under review here, forty-eight texts record a professional title *stricto sensu*, sixty-six of them mention membership of a professional *collegium*.⁸
- 9 Cristofori argued that the discourse changed dramatically when dealing with a member of a professional *collegium*: the focus was no longer on the execution of an actual profession, but on the insertion of an individual into a socially more highly evaluated echelon of Roman society.⁹ Recording a professional title or boasting membership of a professional *collegium* seem to have been appreciated in a different way, as the latter speaks of roles in an officially recognised organisation and thus of the place of the members in society as a whole. Joshel argued that "the connection with a vulgar trade was not denied but transposed".¹⁰ She goes on to state; "men with this form of occupational title" (i.e. members of a professional *collegium*) "would have been among the wealthier practitioners of their trades".¹¹
- 10 Was there some kind of two-speed mechanism in force here, a consistent difference in appreciation of the two "types" of professional title as Cristofori and Joshel suggest? If this is correct, inscriptions of members of professional *collegia* (an "indirect" title) would show they were wealthier than **augustales* who mentioned their actual profession (a "direct" title). I would like to add a second aspect to draw the discussion into the social sphere: is there a difference in the number of privileges and honours they obtained?

*

- 11 First, are there more indications of wealth to be found among **augustales* who boasted membership of a professional *collegium* than among those who mentioned their specific trade? In the sixty-six texts that record membership of professional *collegia* (an "indirect" title), twelve **augustales* (18%) stress having paid for the monument or tombstone themselves (*sibi*). Four¹² Ostian inscriptions mention the size of the plot of land on which the tomb or grave monument was built (6%). Seven inscriptions record benefactions (11%).
- 12 The corpus of inscriptions of **augustales* who mention an actual profession (a "direct" title) is smaller, namely forty-eight texts, but the differences between a "direct" and "indirect" title seem fairly limited. Eighteen **augustales* (35%) stress having paid for the monument or tombstone themselves (*sibi*). Five inscriptions mention the size of the plot

of land on which the tomb or grave monument was built (10%). Four inscriptions record benefactions (8%).

- 13 Also, it seems that the various sizes of the plots of land are not that different. The smallest plot (195 sq. Roman feet, or 15,7 m²)¹³ was attested in the corpus of texts that mention professions as such; the largest plot (1840 sq. Roman feet, or 161 m²)¹⁴ was the property of a member of the association of Ostian *fabri*. However, the sizes of plots of land mentioned in the rest of the inscriptions (four indirect, five direct professional titles) do not differ that much. The average size was 935 sq. feet (or 81.75m²) for the *collegiati* and 757 sq. feet (or 66.20 m²) for **augustales* who mentioned their professions. The significance of these figures is limited, since they are based on a small number of inscriptions. Still, the general surface area was considerable, ranging from twenty to one hundred and sixty square metres in size.¹⁵ Half of the inscriptions, regardless of the type of professional title attested in the text, give sizes of plots of land that are over one hundred and ten square metres. To put this into context: this is sixty square metres more than the average living space per person in modern Western Europe,¹⁶ and perhaps four times the living space per person in imperial Ostia.¹⁷ To be clear, the size of the average living space per person was used as a parameter for comparison with the size of the plot of land, not to indicate the dimension of physical space available per person buried in the tomb. Remarkably, none of the eighty inscriptions that mention the size of the plot of land (of **augustales* in general, not only of those who recorded a professional title) boast a connection with the city council. The phrase *locus datus decreto decurionum* is completely absent from this corpus of inscriptions. These men and women obtained a (sometimes sizeable) plot of land on their own.
- 14 What was the size of benefactions made by **augustales* who recorded a professional title? Is there a marked difference between **augustales* who were *collegiati* of a professional *collegium* and those who recorded an actual profession?
- 15 Three inscriptions attest to **augustales* as benefactors and mention a profession (i.e. a direct title) as well. Lucius Lupercius Exessus was a *sevir augustalis* and cloth dealer who entrusted ten thousand sesterces with the *municipium* of Novaria.¹⁸ A *sevir augustalis* from Cures Sabini, Publius Publilius Anthus, gave ten thousand sesterces, but the inscription breaks off here and we do not know on what this money was supposed to be spent.¹⁹ The third text is rather exceptional. Publius Decimius Eros Merula was a freedman and *sevir* who took up three related professions: he was a doctor, an eye doctor and a surgeon.²⁰ This medical all-rounder from Assisi listed his expenses and inheritance with exceptional care. First, he named the price of his social promotion; he paid fifty thousand sesterces for his freedom, and two thousand for his *sevirate*. Next, he listed his benefactions; he spent thirty thousand sesterces on two statues and invested thirty seven thousand sesterces in road works. Finally, his *patrimonium* was worth eight hundred thousand sesterces. In total, he claims to be worth nine hundred and nineteen thousand sesterces. Eros' wealth seems to have approximated the magical barrier of one million sesterces, which was the minimum *census* for entering the *ordo senatorius*. He transcended the minimum *census* of the *ordo equester* by at least five hundred thousand sesterces.
- 16 Seven texts speak of **augustales* who were benefactors and *collegiati* of a professional association (i.e. indirect professional titles). An anonymous *sevir augustalis* from Ostia was a member of the associations of both the *fabri* and the *negotiatores*, and was *quinquennalis* in both *collegia* and of the *seviri augustales*. He gave ten thousand sesterces to the city of Ostia. The text is fragmentary, but possibly the sum of money was to be used for the care

and, if necessary, the punishment of the slaves the city watched over in his name: *ex nomine [meo ser]vorum fidem pro[---] / observabunt et ne HS X m(ilia) n(ummum) rei public(ae) [Ost(iensium) pro] / poena inferant curae habe[bunt]*.²¹ Another anonymous *sevir augustalis* from Pisaurum gifted two hundred thousand sesterces, but his intentions as well as the recipient of this money are unclear.²²

- 17 Two other *seviri augustales* from Brixia gave money for the upkeep and maintenance of something – *in tutelam*. P. Antonius Callistius and two other benefactors gave *sportulae* of unknown size and four hundred sesterces *in tutelam* to the association of cattle drivers (*collegium iumentariorum*).²³ Callistius' gift of four hundred sesterces would generate yearly revenue of twenty-four sesterces. Dependent on how this money was supposed to be spent, this could be an endowment, but it is equally possible it was a one-time gift. L. Cornelius Prosodicus was a *sevir augustalis* in both Brixia and Verona and established the first association of the young (*collegium iuvenum*) at Brixia. For his merit, he probably was offered a statue. Here, the mechanism of reciprocity is clear: he was given a statue, but paid for it himself since he was content with the honour (*honore contentus impendium remisit*). He also gave fifty sesterces *in tutelam*, perhaps for the upkeep the presumed statue.²⁴ This was hardly sufficient for the maintenance of a statue for multiple years: the revenue would only be three sesterces (at a rate of 6% interest).
- 18 Three **augustales* financed a meal or *sportulae*. T. Iegius Iucundus, another *sevir augustalis* from Brixellum, gave a meal for the association of the *centonarii*.²⁵ L. Apuleius Brasida from Pisaurum financed a distribution of bread, wine and fifty sesterces per person, but the recipients are unclear. This *sevir augustalis* had obtained the right to boast the outer distinctions of the city council (so-called *ornamenta decurionalia*) and was patron and *quinquennalis* of the association of the carpenters.²⁶ Consequently, one could make a conjecture that he included at least the city council, the *seviri augustales* and the *fabri* as beneficiaries of his gift. At fifty sesterces a head, plus bread and wine, this was a sizeable benefaction. Finally, L. Tifanius Felix from Tuficum had also obtained the *ornamenta decurionalia* and was a patron of the association of the *fabri*. He gave gladiatorial games for the health of Emperor Commodus, financed a meal for all those present and offered *sportulae* of eight sesterces for the city councillors and four sesterces for the rest.²⁷ Although no total of the expenses is mentioned, the games, meal and distributions were very sizeable benefactions that would have made his name well known throughout the city.
- 19 So, as the aforementioned evidence shows, there does not seem to be a marked difference between **augustales* who were *collegiati* of a professional *collegium* (an “indirect” title) and those who recorded an actual profession (a “direct” title) – at least not when it comes to the size of the plot of land or benefactions. The higher social standing and “transposing” of a potentially stigmatising profession into membership of a *collegium*, does not reveal itself in the size of gifts done by any of these **augustales*. Moreover, the largest sums of money were named in an inscription of a doctor from Assisi who did not claim any membership of a professional association. In total, he was worth 919,000 sesterces.²⁸

*

- 20 Second, did the **augustales* who were *collegiati* of professional associations obtain significantly more positions and honours? In other words, was their wealth (i.e. economic capital) more often transformed into “symbolic capital” and did they reinforce one

another?²⁹ The volume and structure of these different capital forms are important markers of inequality.³⁰ So how often did these *collegiati* of professional associations become high-ranking office holders, or were granted other honours or privileges? Did this occur significantly more often to them than to their fellow-**augustales* who simply recorded their profession?

- 21 The highest decoration that could be awarded to **augustales* was the *ornamenta decurionalia* – they received the honorary membership of the city council and were permitted to wear the status symbols of a *decurio*, without actually becoming one. The glory of admission to the *splendidissimus ordo*, referring to the *curia* as a municipal senate, was a coveted position. *Ornamentis decurionatus honoratus* was the crowning phrase of a successful freedman's epitaph.³¹ Remarkably, not one of the **augustales* who recorded a “direct” professional title obtained the *ornamenta*. Conversely, the *ornamenta decurionalia* are attested to six times among the **augustales* who were *collegiati* of a professional association.³²
- 22 The expression *l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecreto) d(ecurionum)* found in countless inscriptions indicates the *decuriones* controlled where dedications, statues or other buildings were to be erected.³³ This expressed proximity to the city council and was a high honour. Again, none of **augustales* who mentioned a actual profession received a plot of land from their city council, whereas five office holders in professional associations did.³⁴
- 23 Finally, which positions connected with either the office or the associations of **augustales* are attested to? Among those who recorded a regular profession, I counted three *duplicarii*, one *corporatus*, one *augustalis iterum*, one *curator* and *quinquennalis*, and three *quinquennales*.³⁵ Of this list, the *quinquennalitas* ranks highest. Some associations counted per lustrum and had *quinquennales* in charge of the *collegium* for a period of five years.³⁶ Ostia was an exceptional case for the *quinquennalitas* of **augustales*. The homogeneity of the terminology used in the *fasti augustalium*³⁷ recovered from Ostia is confusing. Not only the heads were *quinquennales*, as could be expected, but also a range of lower officers seem to have borne the same title. This indicates that in Ostia the *quinquennalitas* was in most cases little more than the expression of having obtained the **augustalitas*, rather than indicating presidency. All three of these *seviri augustales quinquennales* were from Ostia, and may very well have been regular members. The other titles also express relatively modest positions. *Duplicarii* were entitled to a double share at distributions of *sportulae* or other gifts.³⁸ *Iterum* indicated that this person had taken up the one-year office twice.³⁹ The title of *corporatus* designated a progression in the hierarchy of the association, a modest but real promotion.⁴⁰
- 24 **Augustales* who were members of professional *collegia* did not occupy more prominent collegiate positions among **augustales*. Sixteen inscriptions record the *quinquennalitas*, one *sevir augustalis* was *quinquennalis perpetuus* and *curator*. In fifteen instances, these **augustales* were *quinquennales* in Ostia.⁴¹ Obviously the same remarks about the dubious nature of the Ostian *quinquennalitas* apply here. Three men were *curatores*, one was a *bisellarius*, one *corporatus*, and one was *sevir bis*.⁴² None of these titles are at the high end of the collegial spectrum, except perhaps for the three *curatores* named and the *quinquennalis perpetuus* who was a so-called eponymous officer.

*

- 25 Despite it being less explicitly expressed in titles directly connected with **augustales*, there does seem to be a distinct two-speed mechanism in vogue here. Those who could boast a stronger relation with the city council through *ornamenta* and the accordance of plots of public land were *always* men who recorded membership of a professional *collegium* as their “indirect” professional title.
- 26 Let us go back to Joshel’s original statement: “men with this form of occupational title” (i.e. members of a professional *collegium*) “would have been among the wealthier practitioners of their trades”.⁴³ Indeed, being a *collegiatus* was costly. As the famous inscription of the *collegium* of Diana and Antinous in Lanuvium (A.D. 136) shows, a member had to pay an entrance fee and monthly membership fees.⁴⁴ In addition, *collegiati* were expected to participate in a number of costly activities and to act as benefactors within the local community.
- 27 However, Joshel fails to notice that simple membership is recorded relatively rarely (except for in *alba*). Most attestations of *collegiati* actually refer to officers (*quinquennales* and *curatores*), who had to bear part of the group’s expenses. This is the explanation for the two-speed mechanism in force here, a consistent difference in appreciation of the two “types” of professional title discussed above. Members of professional *collegia* (an “indirect” title) could count on a higher appreciation than those who recorded an actual profession (a “direct” title). This is *not* an appreciation of the profession; it is a validation of the individuals who took up responsibilities within an association vis-à-vis those who did not. It was not the profession that was the important factor that influenced the higher number of honours (the contact with the city council referred to above), but the leading collegiate positions that they took up.⁴⁵
- 28 In any case, it is clear that the **augustales* who attested their actual profession did not belong to the top. None of these men obtained additional honours, titles or positions besides their **augustalitas*. Still, epigraphical attestation of occupational title is the exception and this could mean it had an added value and had some kind of social positioning function.

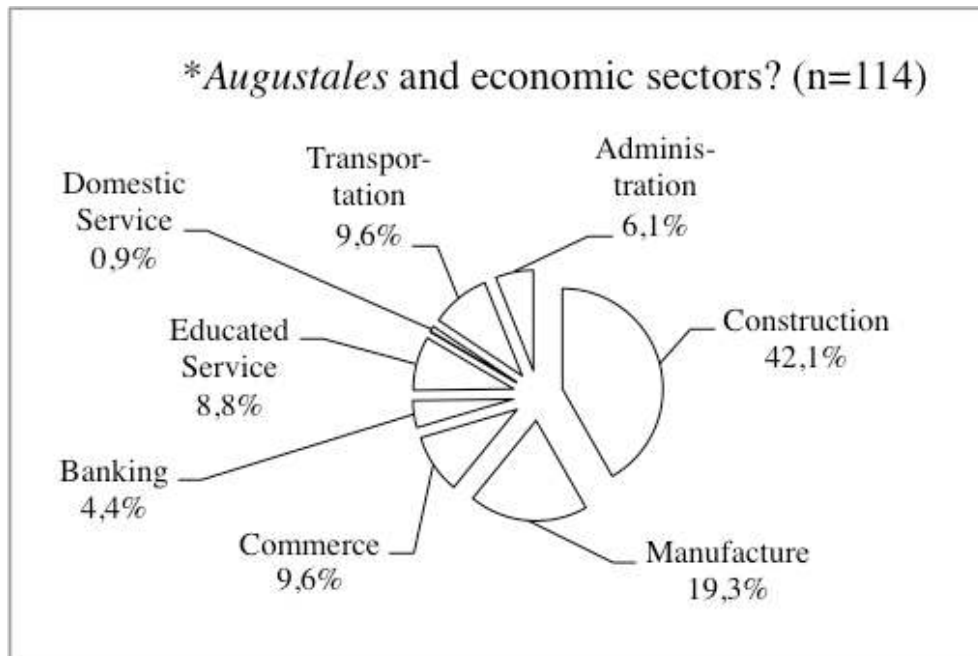
Economic Sectors and **Augustales*

- 29 Here, I outline the diversity of the economic sectors in which **augustales* were active. In which sectors do we encounter **augustales* most often? Professional titles attested by **augustales* substantially deviate from the general pattern. The following table shows the different sectors in which **augustales* were represented, and how these relate to Joshel’s figures;

	* <i>Augustales</i> (Italy and Gaul)				Rome, for <i>male</i> population (Joshel 1992, p. 69)	
	Profession	Office	Abs. Total	Rel. Total	Abs.	Rel
Construction	5	42	47	42,1%	112	8,9%
Manufacture	12	10	22	19,3%	282	22,3%
Commerce	8	3	11	9,6%	99	7,8%

Banking	5	0	5	4,4%	42	3,3%
Educated Service	9	1	10	8,8%	101	8,0%
Skilled Service	0	0	0	0,0%	40	3,2%
Domestic Service	1	0	1	0,9%	235	18,6%
Transportation	2	9	11	9,6%	55	4,4%
Administration	6	1	7	6,1%	296	23,5%
Total	48	66	114		1262	

- 30 Joshel's data are biased since they stem from Rome, but there are no alternative figures available. Zimmer's older book on "Römische Berufsdarstellungen" (1982) uses epigraphic material from the Italian peninsula in general, but is thematically too limited; it only focuses on traders and craftsmen. A more recent study by Cristofori of professions in Picenum (2004) uses economic sectors similar to Joshel's. His data present some difficulties; only 71 inscriptions mention a profession in Picenum. Moreover, the region is not strongly represented in the corpus of **augustales* at all: only twenty-five inscriptions were recovered from Picenum, and four of them record a profession. Such a limited set of inscriptions cannot serve as a basis for extrapolation or comparison. So although Joshel's work is limited to the city of Rome, her figures, based on a corpus of 1262 inscriptions, are the best available.
- 31 A number of things are remarkable about the figures tabulated above. In general, the number of female **augustales* is extremely limited. Most of the women who seem to have been **augustales* held an ambiguous position within the *collegium*, acting as patrons of the association. *Patroni* were, as a rule, outsiders of the *collegium* they patronised.⁴⁶ Since the number of instances in which a woman was named as an **augustalis* is limited, it is hardly surprising that no female **augustales* with professional title are recorded at all.

**Augustales* and economic sectors?

- 32 A general overview of the different sectors in which **augustales* were active (direct and indirect indications of professions taken together), produces the presented pie chart.
- 33 The strong engagement of **augustales* in the construction sector is striking. In Joshel's figures, this sector represented only 9% of professional titles attested in imperial Rome. Forty-eight **augustales* who indicated a professional title (or 42 % of the corpus, n=114) worked in construction. Most of them (i.e. forty inscriptions) were members of an association of craftsmen, *fabri tignarii* (carpenters) and *fabri navales* (shipwrights) being the largest categories. Five others were *marmorarii*, marble masons, and one was a *calcarius*, a limeburner or a worker at a limekiln. Also the stronger presence of **augustales* in the transportation sector is remarkable; one out of ten was active as a *navicularius* (shipper), *nauta* (river shipper), or *lenuncularius* (small vessel boatman, working for the *annona*). In Joshel's figures the transportation sector was represented in only 4,4 % of the occupational inscriptions.
- 34 Equally remarkable is the underrepresentation of **augustales* in administration. Only seven **augustales* – or 6,3 % of the corpus – were listed as accountant, overseer, collector of money, treasurer, or grain measurer. The representation of **augustales* in the manufacturing, commerce and banking trades, and also in educated service, is very similar to what Joshel established for Rome. Not a single **augustalis* records working in skilled service, and only one was active in domestic service, calling himself “an excellent chef”, *cocus optimus*.⁴⁷ Compared to Joshel's general figures, this is remarkable, but not altogether surprising. An **augustalis* held a highly esteemed position, standing before the door to the *curia*, which would be opened to his children.⁴⁸ The **augustalitas* not only conferred social distinction on its members, but also offered concrete paths of ascent for the freed **augustales*, and especially their descendants who could gain admission to the city council, since they were born free and therefore without legal impediment.⁴⁹ Perhaps men who were affluent enough to qualify for the **augustalitas* had not often been

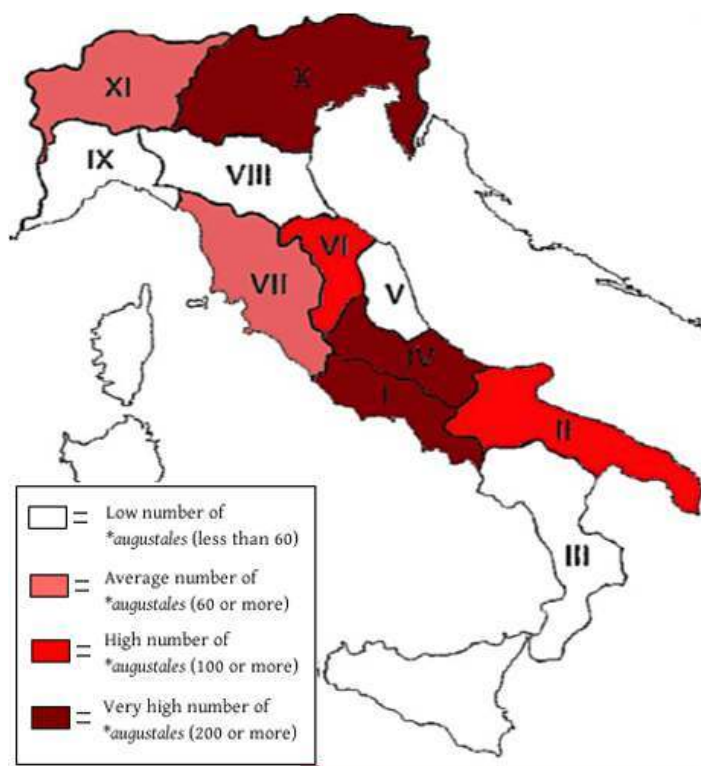
domestic slaves who tended to the children of their master, emptied chamber pots, or performed as entertainers.

- 35 These figures were subjected to the influence of local factors that benefited the development of certain sectors – especially the presence of ports and harbours. This geographical differentiation and specialisation is the subject of the following section.

Geographical Differentiation⁵⁰

- 36 Can a differentiated geographical spread of both types of professional title be discerned? Was it more common in certain areas of Italy or Gaul to attest a certain occupation? A local perspective generally is extremely important to contextualise specific developments of “the” **augustalitas*. Also, it is necessary to confront the presence and visibility of **augustales* in general in these regions, with that of **augustales* who professed their professional title. When doing so, it quickly becomes clear that a high or low amount of attestations of individual **augustales* in certain regions or provinces is no guideline for predicting the number of professional titles recorded.

Frequency of attestation **augustales*



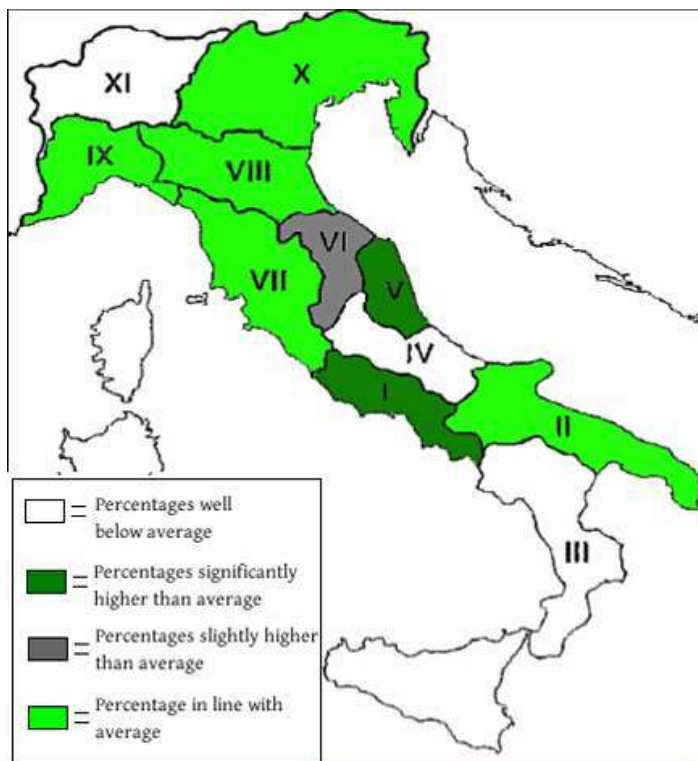
- 37 There are two aspects of the geographical spread of attestations that deserve attention. First of all, **augustales* were not represented as strongly in all of the Italian or Gallic regions. Latium and Campania (Regio I) produced the highest number of inscriptions of **augustales*: three hundred and fifty-nine. Also the neighbouring Regio IV, Samnium, had a strong presence of **augustales*, recorded in one hundred and ninety-one texts. Finally, also Venetia and Histria, Regio X in the north of Italy, produced a great number of inscriptions; two hundred and seven in total. These three regions are marked in dark red on the map. The bright red areas on the map are the parts of the Italian peninsula that

also produced a high number of inscriptions, although none of them reached the exceptional levels of the dark red areas. Both in Umbria (Regio VI) and Apulia/Calabria (Regio II), one hundred and four texts were found.

- 38 The pink areas are the regions that produced sixty or more inscriptions of **augustales*. In Transpadana, Regio XI, sixty-nine texts were recovered, and in Etruria, Regio VII, sixty-four. In the white areas on the map, less than sixty inscriptions were found. This is the case in Regio III (Bruttium/Lucania), Regio V (Picenum), Regio VIII (Aemilia), and Regio IX (Liguria). In Bruttium/ Lucania, as well as in Picenum and Liguria, twenty-five texts record the presence of **augustales*. Thirty-seven inscriptions were recovered from the region of Aemilia.
- 39 In Narbonese Gaul, **augustales* are strongly represented; they are recorded in two hundred and one texts. In Lugdunese Gaul, however, their presence is not as strong: sixty inscriptions were recovered.

*

Frequency of attestation professional title **augustales*



- 40 A second important aspect is the differentiated frequency of attestation of professional title. Again, a map aids in visualising the geographical spread. On average, 7.7% of the inscriptions that attest individual **augustales* in Italy or Roman Gaul mention a professional title – i.e. one hundred and fourteen out of one thousand four hundred and sixty-nine inscriptions. In most Italian regions, the percentages are more or less in line with this average. This was the case in Regio II, Apulia / Calabria (5.8%), in Regio VII, Etruria (6.3%), in Regio VIII, Aemilia (5.4%), in Regio IX, Liguria (8%), and in Regio X, Venetia / Histria (5.8%). These *regiones* are the bright green sections of the map.

- 41 Some *regiones* produced little to no epigraphic attestations of professional titles among **augustales*. Inscriptions from the southern Regio III, Bruttium / Lucania, do not give any information on the professions of **augustales* at all. In Regio IV, Samnium, and Regio XI, Transpadana, the percentages of inscriptions that mention professional title among **augustales* are well below average. Respectively 4.2% and 4.3% of the texts do so. These areas, where the percentages are well below the average of 7.7%, are marked in white on the map.
- 42 Two regions are marked in dark green. These represent the parts of the Italian peninsula where the number of attestations of professional title is significantly higher than average. In Latium/Campania, Regio I, 11.7% of inscriptions (or one and a half times the average of 7.7%) recorded a professional title. The percentage is even more elevated in Regio V, Picenum, where no less than 16% of inscriptions (or more than twice the average) did so.
- 43 Finally, the percentage of attestations of professional title is somewhat above average in Regio VI, Umbria (9.6%), marked in grey. Although this deviation from the average percentage may seem slight, it will soon become clear why this is significant.
- 44 In Narbonese Gaul, the number of attestations of professional titles is well within the average range; 5% of the inscriptions mention a profession. In Lugdunese Gaul, a surprisingly high percentage of texts mention a professional title (16.7%, more than twice the average percentage of 7.7%).
- 45 Remarkably, high percentages of professional titles occur more often when the number of inscriptions in general is low, whereas a large corpus of texts seems to produce significantly lower percentages of attestations of professional titles. This suggests that we are dealing with two epigraphic phenomena that were interdependent, but not causally linked with one another. As the size of the corpus hardly had an influence on the number of professional titles recorded, this fragmentation is a strong indication that the explanation lays in local developments and economic specialisation.

*

- 46 How does the frequency of attestations of **augustales* tie in with the total epigraphic corpus recovered from these regions or provinces? As the table below demonstrates, there seem to be (yet again) few causal connections.

Region	Number of * <i>augustales</i>	Number of inscriptions in Manfred-Clauss database	Percentage* <i>augustales</i>
I. Latium/ Campania	357	38,564	0.9%
II. Apulia / Calabria	104	5279	2%
III. Bruttium/ Lucania	25	2116	1.2%
IV. Samnium	191	6045	3.2%
V. Picenum	25	2386	1%
VI. Umbria	104	4859	2.1%

VII. Etruria	64	9668	0.7%
VIII. Aemilia	37	4482	0.8%
IX. Liguria	25	1739	1.4%
X. Venetia / Histria	207	15,322	1.4%
XI. Transpadana	69	3953	1.7%
Gallia Narbonensis	201	199,773	0.1%
Gallia Lugdunensis	60	11,743	0.5%
Total	1469	305,929	0.5 %

- 47 The high number of inscriptions recovered from Latium/Campania is mirrored in the number of **augustales* known from the region, and a similar phenomenon can be seen in Venetia/Histria and in Narbonese Gaul. Conversely, the number of **augustales* recorded in Samnium is relatively high in comparison to the totality of inscriptions from *Regio IV*, producing the highest percentage of attestations of **augustales*: 3.2%. Something similar is going on in Apulia/Calabria and Umbria. Again, the size of the general epigraphic corpus hardly influences the percentages that indicate the presence of **augustales* in these regions.

Geographical Specialisation: Ostia and Lugdunum

- 48 Epigraphically laying a claim on a profession was not a neutral deed, but was rather an expression of how one wanted to be remembered, e.g. as an artisan, a trader, or a builder. It meant that this individual experienced, for instance, his artisanship as an “integral part of his identity at death”.⁵¹ Can we discern, within this corpus of one hundred and fourteen inscriptions, some inclination toward certain economic sectors in parts of the Italian peninsula and Roman Gaul? In other words: did **augustales* engage in those sectors that were economically important for their regions?
- 49 In fact, this question cannot be answered without difficulty, or even at all. Most of the epigraphic material is extremely fragmented and Latium and Campania was the only region where perhaps a sufficient number of inscriptions were preserved. The number of attestations in other Italian regions or Gallic provinces ranges from a mere two to a maximum of twelve. Little can be said about the interplay of **augustales*, their professions, and different regions. The epigraphic corpus of professional titles is simply too small and too fragmented to lend credibility to any far-reaching statement. Most cities are only named in one or two inscriptions; sixty cities are sites where occupational inscriptions of **augustales* were recovered, and in fifty-five of them only one or two texts of this type were found. This renders a comprehensive analysis of their geographically determined importance difficult, at least on the level of isolated cities. Only two major economic hubs produced enough records of **augustales* who mentioned their professional occupation to make a more elaborate discussion possible: Ostia and Lugdunum.

*

- 50 Although the site is in much worse shape than the exceptional cities of Herculaneum or Pompeii, the archaeological remains of the magnificent portal city of Ostia still demonstrate its former splendour and importance. Here, twenty-seven of the Ostian **augustales* recorded a profession.
- 51 We only know of one Ostian *sevir augustalis* active in commerce (or “sales”, as Joshel called it).⁵² Three men were active in banking,⁵³ and seven inscriptions mention *seviri augustales* who worked in transportation.⁵⁴ An anonymous *sevir augustalis* seems to have invested in several professions: he was a *quinquennalis* in the association of the *fabri tignuarii*, a *quinquennalis* and *bisellarius* in the association of the *negotiatores fori vinari*, a now retired (*vetus negotias*) *navicularius* *lyntrarius*, as well as a renowned *nummularius*.⁵⁵ This man claims to have been a carpenter, a tradesman of wine, a small vessel shipper and a moneychanger to boot. In any case, all of these professions were compatible: a small vessel shipper who also knew something about woodworking could repair his own boat. He could use the small boats to transport wine from Ostia to the wine market in Rome, and be known as a *negotiator* there. Being a *nummularius*, he would have extensive knowledge of foreign and counterfeit money that would serve him well as a tradesman on the international market of the capital. If this conjecture is correct and if this was the way his different professions were interrelated, then one could suppose this man started out as a wine merchant and steadily expanded his expertise to several other, but always useful, professions.
- 52 Fourteen inscriptions mention *seviri augustales* who worked in the construction trade, clearly the predominant economic sector. Two men’s stories are worth telling. Tiberius Claudius Urbanus, who, considering his name, may be a descendant of a freedman of emperor Claudius, was a *quinquennalis* and *decurio* of the college of the *fabri tignuarii*.⁵⁶ An *album* of this association was found in Rome and clearly shows that *quinquennales* ranked higher than *decuriones*.⁵⁷ Nicolas Tran suggested that these *decuriones* headed the different *decuria* in which the enormous association was divided. The position was the stepping-stone needed to obtain the *quinquennalitas* at the next lustrum.⁵⁸ This must have been what happened to Urbanus. Moreover, he named the chronologically later of the two positions, the *quinquennalitas*, first and his *augustalitas* even before that, thus making it clear which position he (and his surroundings) valued most.
- 53 Lucius Antonius Epitynchanus was a *quinquennalis* of the *fabri tignuarii* of Ostia, but a *sevir augustalis* in the Narbonese colony of Aqua Sextiae, the present-day Aix-en-Provence.⁵⁹ He was also a servant of the *decuria Curiatia* and performed his service during public offerings.⁶⁰ Mommsen saw this position as a religious lictorship and suggested that even the *Flamen Dialis* and the Vestal Virgins relied on this *decuria*.⁶¹ This particular *sevir augustalis* must have been very well connected and had pursued a career path that landed him in a very prestigious position: a sacerdotal *lictor* of an important *decuria*. Still, this did not prevent him from taking pride in his professional affiliation with the Ostian carpenters, and even naming this occupational aspect of his career *before* mentioning his Narbonese *augustalitas*.
- 54 Logically, the occupational differentiation of Ostian **augustales* seems biased towards the harbour activities of the city; the construction and transportation sectors had the upper hand.

*

- 55 The provincial capital city Lugdunum is located on a hill and at the confluence of two major rivers, the Rhône and the Saône. Gallic rivers proved highly conducive to transport: the water is calm, regular, and abundant, despite the frost spells in wintertime. Corporations of *nautae* (river shippers) were responsible for transport all over the area. Because of its position at the confluence of the Rhône and the Saone, a number of these associations are attested at Lugdunum: *nautae Rhodanici* (of the Rhône), *nautae Ararici* (of the Saone), *nautae Rhodanici et Ararici* (of Rhône and Saone), and *nautae Condeates* (of Condate).⁶² Also, Lugdunum was the node of the Via Agrippa, the major road network built by Agrippa.⁶³ This major route went from Arles to Lyon, Macôn, Chalon, Dijon, and Langres. It was “trans provincial”; crossing Lugdunese and Narbonese Gaul from north to south, and Lugdunum (Lyon) was at the very centre of it. From Lyon, it was also easy to reach northern Italy via the Alpine region, or to go west to Aquitania via Clermont-Ferrand and Saintes.⁶⁴ Being at the crossroads of both rivers and roads contributed strongly to the commercial development of the city. Lugdunum was the beating heart of the Gallic economy. It is unsurprising that all of the provincial occupational inscriptions of **augustales* (ten in total) are preserved here. Strikingly, half of the men recorded in these ten inscriptions were active in two or even three economic sectors and none of the sectors takes the upper hand.
- 56 Five *seviri augustales* took up five professions in five different sectors: one was a banker, one a producer of perfumes, one a carpenter, one a dealer and producer of silverware, and one an *utriclarius* (transporter of wine and oil in bags of animal skin).⁶⁵ Contrary to the situation at Ostia, there is no clear predominance of the construction sector at Lugdunum. Only one *sevir augustalis* was a carpenter and a member of the association of the *fabri tignuarii* with residence in Lugdunum.⁶⁶ Two other men were active in the construction sector as well, but they combined it with other occupations.⁶⁷ One badly damaged inscription may record an anonymous *sevir augustalis* as a *negotiator mercium Italicarum*, a dealer in Italian goods.⁶⁸ This would be the only attestation of an **augustalis* active purely in the sales trade in Lugdunum. It is, admittedly, “history from square brackets”, based on elaborate reconstructions of very fragmentary inscriptions.⁶⁹ Finally, two *seviri augustales* were involved in three different economic sectors: manufacture, transportation, and commerce.⁷⁰
- 57 At Lugdunum, no particular trade or profession stands out like it did at Ostia. Still, in this limited corpus of ten inscriptions, almost half of the men named were *nautae* of the Rhône or Saone. Situated at the confluence of rivers that lent themselves extraordinarily well for heavy-duty transport, it is hardly surprising that **augustales* were also involved in this economic sector. Striking, however, is that the Lugdunese **augustales* who recorded a professional activity, often did not limit themselves to one economic sector, although these accumulated professions were always compatible in some way. This is perfectly in accordance with the amalgam of trades and professions known at Lugdunum. Lugdunese Gaul is a difficult province, a huge crescent that covered over a thousand kilometres of land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. One of the strongest characteristics of the province is an enormous geographical diversity. A sense of unity of these regions was non-existent. It was Caesar, however, who did not perceive any real differences between the different Gallic tribes inhabiting the region. and consequently

the Romans made it into one and the same province. Although artificial in every way, this diversity was perhaps also the strength of Lugdunese Gaul. It was this exact diversity that found its maximal expression at Lugdunum, the second-largest city of the Empire (after Rome), a melting pot of cultures that attracted traders from all over the empire, who then took up residence at Lugdunum (*consistentes*).

The Imperial and Local *Annona*

- 58 Many farmers, merchants, and transporters were engaged in the development of “supply channels”, but also a small army of administrators and accountants were a part of this system. The *mensores frumentarii* measured the public grain, before it was stored in the public granaries or transported to Rome. These men had to be honest and trustworthy, which explains the strength and influence of the association: they dealt with the *annona*, the crucial grain supply.⁷¹ Two *seviri augustales* based at Ostia worked for the imperial *annona*, one as a grain weigher, and one as an assistant to a grain weigher. Ostian associations concerned with the grain dole of the capital city, did not operate on the municipal level, but on the provincial. Although locally based, they clearly transcended the normal reach of associations, and so did their socially prominent members.

*

- 59 The word *annona* does not necessarily refer to the grain dole of Rome. Strictly speaking, it implies a deficit of some kind (*for instance* a lack of grain), as well as the solution. Ninety per cent of all inscriptions that record this word actually refer to grain that was locally purchased and consumed in the cities of the Empire, and does *not* have anything to do with the grain dole of the capital city.⁷²
- 60 Private individuals could aid the local grain supply when necessary. Local producers could contribute in kind, by offering the city a part of their actual harvest. Others could gift a sum of money so the city could restock their granaries. Municipal grain funds (*sitionia*) under curatorship of *sitonai* are attested in Asia Minor. Sometimes, especially in the smaller cities, these *sitonai* acted as *agoranomoi*, men who were more generally involved in the food supply market. In the western provinces, similar institutions are unknown. It was common practice to appoint wealthy and well-connected prominent citizens when a particular need in connection with the grain market arose.⁷³ These men, who were appointed ad hoc, may have been given the title of *curator annonae* (*frumentariae*), as a number of inscriptions of Italian **augustales* suggest.⁷⁴
- 61 The connection of **augustales* with the grain market obviously leaves out a substantial part of the production process of grain in the Roman Empire. Either they worked as *mensores frumentarii*, grain weighers, and only saw the grain arrive at the port (especially at Ostia and Puteoli) where they were stationed, or they gifted a substantial sum of money to “support” the local *annona*. The farmers, peasants, and sailors, i.e. the production and transportation, are absent here. We only see parts of the administrative processing and distribution of the grain, or the monetary support offered to feed the local community.

Expenditures and Benefactions

- 62 Purely statistically, the expression of wealth was a major theme in the epigraphic attestation of **augustales*. Wealth rendered the institution relatively exclusive, and lent prestige to it (certainly in combination with members of “good” descent, e.g. part of the *familia* of the curial elite). Out of 1469 inscriptions attesting 1629 individual **augustales*, donations or expenditures of some kind made by an **augustalis* are recorded 510 times;

Benefactions	
Public building	19
Endowments	7
Altars/statues	15
Games	5
Meals	6
<i>De suo/in suo</i>	7
<i>Sua pecunia</i>	19
Total benefactions	78

Expenditures	
<i>Sibi</i>	239
Size plot land	18
<i>Vivus fecit</i>	27
<i>Sibi</i> + size plot land	49
<i>Sibi</i> +benefactions	24
<i>Vivus fecit</i> + <i>sibi</i>	64
<i>Vivus fecit</i> + size plot of land	10
<i>Vivus fecit</i> + benefactions	1
<i>Subtotal sibi</i>	376
<i>Subtotal size plot of land</i>	77
<i>Subtotal vivus fecit</i>	102
<i>Subtotal vivus (fecit) and/or sibi</i>	414
Total expenditures	432

- 63 Beyond doubt, benefactions were the most visible way to display wealth in local society. The potential for displaying wealth was determined by the resources a benefactor could muster, either from his own wealth or that of his family or friends. So, how often do epigraphical attestations offer information on the role of **augustales* as benefactors in their cities (and sometimes beyond)?

- 64 Not all **augustales* could afford to act as a benefactor, and those that did displayed their wealth in many different ways. Caution is needed here: most of the benefactors did not limit themselves to one gift. This is why I opted for distinguishing different “types” of benefactors based on the most expensive benefaction mentioned. Gladiatorial games or road repairs for instance would rank “higher” than financing a single statue. In total, eighty-seven inscriptions – attesting one hundred and twenty-two individuals – record benefactors, but not all of the benefactions were of the same type or magnitude.
- 65 Some of the **augustales* financed public building, which Lomas called “[F]or one of the most high-profile, but possibly one of the most problematic, forms of benefactions”.⁷⁵ Men who could financially afford to interfere with the monumental outlook of the city were certain of returns in the guise of increased visibility and repute (major public works would include refurbishment of existing buildings, road works, construction of walls). Nine texts recorded two types of road works: the pavement or re-pavement of regular roads, lanes, or avenues.⁷⁶ Another six inscriptions speak of men who financed buildings or constructions of common interest that served a public goal: the construction of walls around a temple and *basilica*,⁷⁷ the building of a portico,⁷⁸ *ponderarium*,⁷⁹ or fountain,⁸⁰ and restoring the shrine of the tutelary gods of the roads.⁸¹
- 66 We know of some endowments as well. A certain sum of money was given to the city or the **augustales* by testament and it was stipulated in the will of the deceased what the interest generated by this money had to be used for (sometimes for all eternity). It was an important technique of remembrance⁸², an attempt to honour the memory of a leading figure by financing the adornment of a statue, an offer to his *Manes*, or a yearly distribution of wine or oil on his birthday.⁸³ Others financed altars or statues,⁸⁴ and some could afford to give games of some kind.⁸⁵ Contrary to what one would expect, giving *sportulae* or offering a meal to the community or to particular groups in the city does not occur that often – at least not as the *only* benefaction named. It is more often combined with the inauguration of statues.⁸⁶
- 67 Finally, most of the benefactions known to us are hardly signalled in the inscriptions preserved. When a monument, tomb or any other type of construction was erected in any given Roman community, an inscription would clarify who built or financed it, or at least give some information as to who was responsible for it. Since the slab was physically attached to the construction, it was superfluous to specify the typology of the construction in the text. As such, a great number of epigraphic evidence from all over the Empire contain phrases that indicate that someone paid for something himself (*de suo*), or with his own money (*sua pecunia*). For the **augustales*, almost one-third of the inscriptions that attest benefactors record this phrase.
- 68 Other ways were available to **augustales* to stress the size of their economic capital, except for benefactions. Funerary inscriptions often stipulate who paid for the stone or monument. This could be a member of the family, a patron or the **augustalis* himself. In this last case, *sibi (et suis)* and/or *vivus fecit* were included on the tombstone. In total, four hundred and fourteen inscriptions mention **augustales* who themselves financed their gravestone or monument. In one hundred and two inscriptions the **augustalis* indicates he himself erected the monument or tomb prior to death.
- 69 Drawing the attention to the sizeable plot of land, on which the tomb or grave monument was constructed for instance, is also a way of displaying wealth. In total, seventy-seven inscriptions record the formulae *in fronte pedes* and *in agro pedes*. Forty-nine of these texts

explicitly announce that the **augustalis* took care of his grave monument or tombstone himself prior to death; *sibi (fecit)*. Remarkably, none of the **augustales* whose epitaph mentioned the size of the plot of land were benefactors.

- 70 Both referring to the size of the plot of land and the financing of an epitaph himself, were often the only way an **augustalis* accentuated the economic capital that was the basis of his position. Through their wealth and social networks, they had succeeded in obtaining a fairly respectable position in society, since they were honoured with the **augustalitas*. The vast majority of them did not obtain additional honours, privileges, or positions. As discussed above, the situation is different in Ostia. Here, the *quinquennialitas* was in most cases little more than the expression of membership of the *seviri augustales*, rather than indicating presidency. In fact, the situation in Ostia is perhaps not that far removed from that in other cities; in the absence of other honours, titles or positions to boast about, the **augustalis* stressed his monetary strength.

Conclusion

- 71 In this paper, five aspects of the economic position of **augustales* in Italy and Gaul have been examined: (1) economic sectors, (2) geographical differentiation, (3) geographical specialisation, (4) the imperial and local *annona*, and (5) benefactions and expenditures. Did **augustales* pursue particular occupations or display certain public conduct, and how did this reflect on them and their position? Accepting an office (like the **augustalitas*) implies not only privileges, but also *munera*. Benefactions or other displays of economic capital that was the basis of their respectable position were expected of **augustales*.
- 72 Inscriptions offer us some insight in the structure, size, and usage of the economic capital gathered by **augustales*. Did the wealth of the **augustales* aid them in enlarging their social network or in obtaining honorific positions, and therefore furthered their integration into local society? The wealth and economic integration of **augustales* is apparent in the epigraphic corpus. Roughly half of the inscriptions that record individual **augustales* from Italy and Gaul drew attention to their economic capital or professions;⁸⁷
- 73 - An explicit link with professional activities is almost always absent in the corpus of **augustales* who profiled themselves as benefactors.
- 74 - I have distinguished two variants of professional titles. Remarkably, those who could boast a stronger relation with the city council through *ornamenta* and the accordance of plots of public land were always men who recorded membership of a professional *collegium* as the “type” of professional title. **Augustales* who attested their actual profession did not belong to the top of the organisation of **augustales*. None of these men obtained additional honours, titles or positions besides their *augustalitas*. Here, I have made a crucial note: simple membership is relatively rarely recorded (except for in *alba*). Most attestations of *collegiati* actually refer to officers (*quinquennales* and *curatores*), who had to bear part of the group’s expenses. This is the explanation for the two-speed mechanism, a consistent difference in appreciation of the two “types” of professional title. It was not the profession that was the important factor that influenced the higher number of honours (especially the closer contact with the city council), but the leading collegiate positions they took up. Still, epigraphical attestation of occupational title always had some kind of social positioning function.

- 75 - *Augustales seem to have engaged in those sectors that were economically important for their regions. Or, rather, perhaps they were more likely to mention their profession when it was economically important for the region. This was one of the paths a candidate-**augustalis* could follow to optimise his chances of obtaining the **augustalitas*. He exhibits reasonable and common sense behaviour in order to “fit in”. In other words, he is adapted to the particular field and acts based on the anticipation of conversion of his economic capital into symbolic capital. It is understandable that he subsequently professes the origin of his economic capital in the inscription that centres on his acquired symbolic capital in the form of *prise de position* and honour.⁸⁸
- 76 - Remarkably, in Ostia for example, the expenditures stressed in their inscriptions were also an expression of the lack of higher honours and privileges. In the absence of other honours, titles or positions to boast about, the **augustalis* stressed his economic worth by, for instance, recording the size of the plot of land on which the tomb or epitaph was erected. This was one of the few options of displaying “worthiness” still open to them. These **augustales* seem to have made a virtue of necessity – i.e. exhibiting behaviours that corresponded to expectations.⁸⁹
- 77 - Most of the Ostian and Lugdunese **augustales* professed an “indirect” title, i.e. membership of a professional *collegium*. It is difficult to reconstruct evolutions over time for their individual careers. Membership of a *collegium* was a major factor in civic integration, as Tran demonstrated.⁹⁰ Obtaining the **augustalitas* on top of that, would have been a second factor that influenced this individual’s integration. One could thus conjecture that the membership of the professional association *preceded* the accordance of the **augustalitas*-honour: the civic integration effectuated by membership of a recognised *collegium* made this individual better known in local society. This way, the *decuriones* may have caught sight of these wealthy *collegiati*, who had already shown their skills as a magistrate in the office of an association, and offer them the **augustalitas* as well. Becoming a member of a professional *collegium* may have been a form of active anticipatory socialisation on the part of the candidate-**augustalis*.
- 78 - Some **augustales* based at Ostia were *mensores frumentarii*, grain measurers. They were involved in the imperial *annona*, the grain dole for the one million inhabitants of the capital city. Although locally based, they clearly transcended the normal reach of associations, and so did their socially prominent members. This is at the same time an expression of differentiation among **augustales* (only a few of them were involved in the imperial *annona*) and of integration in local society (these **augustales* were engaged in a sector that was economically important for the region). Other inscriptions in which the word *annona* is mentioned stem from cities all over Italy and Gaul. Some **augustales* aided the local grain supply when necessary. It was common practice to appoint (ad hoc) wealthy and well-connected prominent citizens when a particular need in connection with the grain market arose. This demonstrates the diversity and differentiation among **augustales*: some of them were *curatores annonae*, a position most often taken up by members of the official *ordines*. Such a position was not available to everyone.

*

- 79 In conclusion, it is perfectly imaginable that men with a high economic status, who could not rise any more politically, would invest in their personal visibility in every possible

way. The interplay of collegial membership, professions, and honours suggests that the wealth of **augustales* indeed aided their integration into local society.

- 80 Turning back to the introductory poem by Burns, **augustales* were mice (not because they lacked affluence, but because they lacked the legal or social qualifications needed to participate in public political life). Men who, despite their inferior position, attempted to lay out schemes and try to make the most of their situation. However, this willingness to adapt and play the game – mice adapting to the expectations of the schemes laid out by men, the city councillors for example – may very well go awry. Instead of savouring the prestige of the **augustalitas*, one could fail in its objective and never succeed in obtaining this honour, and therefore never appear in the epigraphic record.

Appendix

Geographical spread professional titles **augustales* in Italy and Gaul (n=114)

	Actual profession	Membership professional collegium	Total number professional titles	Number inscriptions	% Actual profession	% Professional collegium	% Total
I. Latium / Campania	15	27	42	359	4,2%	7,5%	11,7%
II. Apulia / Calabria	6	0	6	104	5,8%	0,0%	5,8%
III. Bruttium / Lucania	0	0	1	25	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
IV. Samnium	4	5	9	191	2,1%	2,6%	4,7%
V. Picenum	3	1	4	25	12,0%	4,0%	16,0%
VI. Umbria	3	7	10	104	2,9%	6,7%	9,6%
VII. Etruria	2	2	4	64	3,1%	3,1%	6,3%
VIII. Aemilia	1	1	2	37	2,7%	2,7%	5,4%
IX. Liguria	1	1	2	25	4,0%	4,0%	8,0%
X. Venetia / Histria	3	9	12	207	1,4%	4,3%	5,8%
XI. Transpadana	2	1	3	69	2,9%	1,4%	4,3%
Gallia Narbonensis	4	6	10	60	6,7%	10,0%	16,7%
Gallia Lugdunensis	4	6	10	201	2,0%	3,0%	5,0%
	48	66	114	1471	3,3%	4,5%	7,7%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abramenko A. (1993a), “Die innere Organisation der Augustalität: Jahresamt und Gesamtorganisation”, *Athenaeum* 81, p. 21-25.

Abramenko A. (1993b), *Die municipale Mittelschicht im kaiserzeitlichen Italien. Zu einem neuen Verständnis von Sevirat und Augustalität*, Frankfurt-Berlin-Bern.

Aldini P.V. (1831), *Sulle antiche lapidi ticinesi con appendice sopra un'epigrafe di Casteggio esercitazioni antiquarie di Pier Vittorio Aldini*, Pavia.

- Badian E. (1989), "History from square brackets", *ZPE* 79, p. 59-70.
- Borghesi B. (1862-1897), *Œuvres complètes*, Paris.
- Bourdieu P. (1979), *La distinction : critique sociale du jugement*, Paris.
- Bourdieu P. (1980), *Le sens pratique*, Paris.
- Camodeca G. (2001), "Albi degli Augustales di Liternum della seconda metà del II secolo", *AION (archeol)* 8, p. 163-182.
- Cristofori A. (2004), *Non arma virumque. Le occupazioni nell'epigrafia del Piceno*, Milan.
- De Ruggiero E. (1886), *Dizionario epigrafico di antichità romane*, 5 v, Rome.
- Duthoy R. (1978), "Les *augustales", *ANRW* 16, 2, p. 1254-1309.
- Egger A.E. (1844), *Recherches sur les Augustales, suivies des fragments du testament politique d'Auguste, connu sous le nom de monument d'Ancyre*, Paris.
- Erdkamp P. (2005), *The Grain Market in the Roman Empire: a Social, Political and Economic Study*, Cambridge.
- Frank T. (1940), "Rome and the Italy of the Empire", in Frank T. ed., *An Economic Survey of Ancient Rome*, vol. 5.
- Garnsey P. and van Nijf O. (1998), "Contrôle des prix du grain à Rome et dans les cités de l'Empire", in *La mémoire perdue: recherches sur l'administration romaine*, Rome, p. 303-315.
- Gordon M.L. (1931), "The Freedman's Son in Municipal Life", *JRS* 21, p. 65-77.
- Grenier A. (1937), "La Gaule Romaine, in Frank T. ed., *An Economic Survey of Ancient Rome*, III, , Baltimore, p. 485-486.
- Hemelrijk E.A. (2008), "Patronesses and 'Mothers' of Roman Collegia", *Classical Antiquity* 27, 1, p. 115-162.
- Joshel S.R. (1992), *Work, Identity, and Legal Status at Rome: A Study of the Occupational Inscriptions*, Norman-London.
- Laird M. (2002), *Evidence in Context: the Public and Funerary Monuments of the Seviri Augustales at Ostia*, PhD thesis, Princeton.
- Lassère J.M. (2005), *Manuel d'épigraphie romaine*, Paris.
- Le Bohec Y. (2008), *La province romaine de Gaule Lyonnaise (Gallia Lugudunensis), du Lyonnais au Finistère*, Dijon.
- Lomas K. (2003), "Public Building, Urban Renewal and Euergetism in Early Imperial Italy", in Lomas K. and Cornell T. eds., *Bread and Circuses. Euergetism and Municipal Patronage in Roman Italy*, London, p. 28-45.
- Mommsen Th. (1871), *Römische Staatsrecht*, vol. 1, Leipzig.
- Morcelli S.A. (1780), *De Stilo Inscriptionum Latinarum*, Rome.
- Mouritsen H. (2011), *The Freedman in the Roman World*, Cambridge-New York.
- Mrozek S. (1994), "Le problème de l'annone dans les villes italiennes du Haut Empire romain", *Le ravitaillement en blé de Rome et des centres urbains des débuts de la République jusqu'au Haut Empire. Actes du colloque international organisé par le Centre Jean Bérard et l'URA 994 du CNRS, Naples, 14-16 Février 1991*, Rome, p. 95-101.
- Noris E. (1681), *Cenotaphia Pisana Caii et Lucii Caesarum dissertationibus illustrata*, Italie.

- Orelli J.C. (1828), *Inscriptionum latinarum selectarum amplissima collectio ad illustrandam Romanae antiquitatis disciplinam accommodata*, Zürich.
- Packer J.E. (1967), "Housing and Population in Imperial Ostia and Rome", *JRS* 57, 1-2, p. 80-95.
- Patterson J.R. (1994), "The Collegia and the Transformation of the Towns in Italy", in *L'Italie d'Auguste à Dioclétien. Actes du colloque international Rome, 25-28 mars 1992*, Rome, p. 227-238.
- Pavis d'Escurac H. (1987), "À propos de l'approvisionnement en blé des cités de l'Orient romain", in Frézouls E. ed., *Sociétés urbaines, sociétés rurales dans l'Asie Mineure et la Syrie hellénistiques et romaines*, Strasbourg, p. 117-130.
- Strubbe J.H.M. (1989), "The Sitionia in the Cities of Asia Minor under the Principate (II)", *EA* 13, p. 99-121.
- Tran N. (2006), *Les membres des associations romaines. Le rang social des collegiati en Italie et en Gaule sous le Haut-Empire*, Rome, 2006.
- von Premerstein A. (1895), "Augustales", in De Ruggiero E., *Dizionario Epigraphico di Antichità Romane*, I, Rome, p. 824-877.
- Wierschowski L. (2001), *Fremde in Gallien - "Gallier" in der Fremde. Die epigraphisch bezeugte Mobilität in, von und nach Gallien vom 1. bis 3. Jh. n. Chr. (Texte, Übersetzungen, Kommentare)*, Stuttgart.
- Zevi F. (2000), "La documentazione epigrafica", in Miniero P. ed., *Il Sacello degli Augustali di Miseno*, Naples, p. 47-62.
- Zimmer G. (1982), *Römische Berufsdarstellungen*, Berlin.
- Zuiderhoek A.J. (2008), "Feeding the Citizens. Municipal Grain Funds and Civic Benefactors in the Roman East", in Alston R. and van Nijf O., *Feeding the Ancient Greek City*, Leuven-Paris-Dudley (Mass.), p. 159-180.

NOTES

1. Egger 1844, p. 1-59. Some inscriptions were already described in the 17th century by Noris 1681, in the 18th century by Morcelli (1780) and in the first half of the 19th century by Marini, Orelli (1828), Borghesi (1862-1897) and Aldini (1831). Egger's account is the first attempt to describe the phenomenon and offer some explanations that did not emanate from a mere antiquarian interest.
2. Most important discussions of terminology are von Premerstein 1895, p. 828-848; Duthoy 1978, p. 1260-1265, p. 1271-1272, p. 1284; Abramenko 1993a, p. 21-25, p. 25-33, p. 33-37.
3. Duthoy 1978, p. 1254.
4. Bourdieu 1979, p. 128-144.
5. This epigraphic dataset was intended to be as exhaustive as possible for the attestations of **augustales* in Italy and Gaul.
6. Cicero, *De Officiis* 1, 150.
7. Cicero, *De Officiis* 1, 151.
8. In ten inscriptions of the, a "regular" professional title and membership of a professional association are mentioned (AE 1974, 123a; AE 1982, 702; AE 1987, 191; AE 1987, 196; AE 1988, 204; CIL 11, 2710a; CIL 12, 982 = D 6986 = CAG 13-2, p. 413; CIL 12, 1898 = ILN

5-1, 124; *CIL* 13, 1972; *CIL* 14, 309 = *EE* 9, p. 335 = *D* 6163). In these cases, the office in a collegial structure was preferred.

9. Cristofori 2004, p. 102: “in questo caso l’accento è posto non tanto sull’esercizio di un mestiere, [...] quanto sull’inserimento in una cellula di riconosciuto rilievo nella società romana.”

10. Joshel 1992, p. 113.

11. Joshel 1992, p. 115.

12. Actually five, but the fifth inscription is fragmentary and the size of the plot of land is uncertain: *AE* 1988, 178 = *AE* 1996, 284.

13. *CIL* 10, 5346.

14. *CIL* 14, 418. One Roman foot was 29,57 cm (Lassère 2005, p. 1100 and *Lexikon der Alten Welt* 1965, p. 3426).

15. *AE* 1987, 191: $9 \times 35 = 315$ sq feet = 27, 53 sqm; *AE* 1988, 204: $13 \times 25 = 325$ sq feet = 28,39 sqm; *CIL* 14, 299: $40 \times 31,5 = 1260$ sq feet = 110, 10 sqm; *CIL* 14, 418: $80 \times 23 = 1840$ sq feet = 160, 78 sqm; *AE* 1988, 189: $23 \times 13,5 = 310,5$ sq feet = 27, 15 sqm; *AE* 1996, 450: $16 \times 14 = 224$ sq feet = 19, 59 sqm; *CIL* 5, 7670: $36 \times 46 = 1656$ sq feet = 144,80 sqm; *CIL* 10, 5346: $15 \times 13 = 195$ sq feet = 17,05 sqm; *CIL* 14, 4641: $40 \times 35 = 1400$ sq feet = 122,41 sqm.

16. According to figures offered by the national institutes for statistics of France (INSEE), Germany (Destatis), Italy (Istat), Belgium (Statbel), the Netherlands (CBS) and the United Kingdom (statistics.gov.uk), the average living space per person in modern Western Europe is 41 sqm.

17. Estimations vary. Calza: 26 sqm. (Calza PR, p. 142-155.) See Meiggs 1960, p. 532-534. Best discussion by Packer. (Packer 1967, p. 80-95.)

18. *AE* 2000, 632.

19. *CIL* 9, 4977.

20. *CIL* 11, 5400.

21. *AE* 1974, 123a.

22. *CIL* 11, 6379.

23. *CIL* 5, 4294.

24. *CIL* 5, 4416.

25. *CIL* 11, 1027.

26. *CIL* 11, 6358.

27. *CIL* 11, 5716.

28. *CIL* 11, 5400 = *D* 7812 = *ERAssisi* 41.

29. Bourdieu 1980, p. 200-207.

30. Bourdieu 1979, p. 119: “Il va de soi que les facteurs constitutifs de la classe construite ne dépendent pas tous au même degré les uns des autres et que la structure du système qu’ils constituent est déterminée par ceux d’entre eux qui ont le poids fonctionnel le plus important: c’est ainsi que le volume et la structure du capital donnent leur forme et leur valeur spécifiques aux déterminations que les autres facteurs (âge, sexe, résidence, etc.) imposent aux pratiques.”; *ibid.*, p. 273: “La distribution au moment considéré des différentes espèces de capital, définit la structure de ce champ.”

31. Gordon 1931, p. 66.

32. AE 1974, 123a (Ostia); CIL 5, 4477 = *InscrIt* 10-5, 266 (Brixia); CIL 11, 5716 = EAOR 2, 17 (Tuficum); CIL 11, 6358 = D 6654 = *Pisaurum* 69 (Pisaurum); CIL 11, 6379 = *Pisaurum* 90 (Pisaurum); ILGN 423 = AE 1900, 203 (Nemausus).
33. e.g. AE 2005, 1006; AE 1992, 1182; CIL 12, 358; CIL 12, 410; CIL 12, 1855; CIL 12, 1869; CIL 12, 1881; CIL 12, 3165; CIL 12, 3169; CIL 12, 3187; CIL 12, 3235; CIL 12, 3236; CIL 12, 4243; CIL 12, 4332; CIL 12, 4393; CIL 12, 4402; CIL 12, 5365; ILGN 107 = D 9074; ILGN 366.
34. AE 1946, 216 (Sestinum); CIL 11, 5716 = EAOR 2, 17 (Tuficum); CIL 11, 6358 = D 6654 = *Pisaurum* 69 (Pisaurum); CIL 14, 3003 = D 6255 (Praeneste); CIL 14, 4140 = D 6155 (Ostia).
35. *Duplicarii*: CIL 10, 540 = *InscrIt* 1-1, *26 (Salernum); AE 1996, 416 (Puteoli); CIL 10, 1873 = D 6331 (Puteoli). *Corporatus*: CIL 12, 704 = CAG 13-5, p. 728 (Arelate). *Augustalis iterum*: AE 1909, 80 (Aquinum). *Curator* and *quinquennalis*: CIL 14, 4641 = AE 1910, 197 = AE 1986, 113 (Ostia). *Quinquennales*: AE 1988, 189 (Ostia); CIL 14, 405 = D 7512 (Ostia); CIL 14, 425 = CIL 10, 542 = D 6170 = *InscrIt* 1-1, *30 = AE 1994, 319 (Ostia).
36. These collegial *quinquennales* differ from *duumviri quinquennales* who were not appointed for one year, but only every five years. (Lassère 2005, p. 479-480.)
37. CIL 14, 4562, 1-11. Elaborately discussed in chapter four.
38. De Ruggiero 1886, I, p. 850 and II, p. 2076-2077.
39. Abramenko 1993b, p. 25-33: "Von daher müßte est etwa statt 'Augustalis iterum' o.ä. natürlich 'Augustalium honore functus iterum' heißen."
40. Tran 2006, p. 156-159, esp. 157: "La condition de *corporatus* est une dignité, renforcée par les responsabilités remplies au sein de l'*ordo Augustalium*." Also Camodeca 2001, p. 173: "Però, come detto, solo in un secondo tempo fu introdotta anche nel collegio di Liternum, forse sull'esempio misenate, la categoria superiore dei *corporati*."
41. See following note for references, minus CIL 11, 2643 (Igilium).
42. *Quinquennales*: AE 1974, 123a; AE 1987, 191; AE 1987, 196; AE 1988, 178 = AE 1996, 284; AE 1988, 200; AE 1988, 204; CIL 11, 2643; CIL 14, 297 = CIL 10, 1924 = ILMN 1, 564; CIL 14, 309 = EE 9, p. 335 = D 6163; CIL 14, 330; CIL 14, 372 = D 6158; CIL 14, 418 = ILMN 1, 565 = D 6167; CIL 14, 419 = CIL 14, 4668; CIL 14, 425 = CIL 10, 542 = D 6170 = *InscrIt* 1-1, *30 = AE 1994, 319; CIL 14, 451 = AE 1987, 176a; CIL 14, 4140 = D 6155 (all from Ostia); *Quinquennalis perpetuus et curator*: CIL 14, 3003 = D 6255 (Praeneste). *Curatores*: CIL 13, 1960; CIL 13, 1966 = D 7028 = Lyon 251; CIL 13, 1967 (all from Lugdunum). *Bisellarius*: CIL 5, 7618 = *InscrIt* 9-1, 131 (Pollentia). *Corporatus*: CIL 12, 523 = ILN 3, 36 = CAG 13-4, p. 475 (Aquae Sextiae). *Sevir bis*: *InscrAqu* 1, 539 = IEAquil 272 (Aquileia).
43. Joshel 1992, p. 115.
44. CIL 14, 2112 = D 7212. See Patterson 1994.
45. I am grateful to prof. K. Verboven for this suggestion.
46. Hemelrijk 2008, p. 115.
47. CIL 9, 3938 = D 7470 = Avezzano 27
48. Mouritsen 2011, p. 252, n.14.
49. Zevi 2000, p. 61.
50. See appendix for all figures.
51. Joshel 1992, p. 125.
52. CIL 14, 397 = CIL 2-14-2-1-E, 2 = EE 9, p. 336.

53. CIL 14, 4641 = AE 1910, 197 = AE 1986, 113; CIL 14, 405 = D 7512; CIL 14, 405 = D 7512.
54. AE 1987, 191; AE 1988, 178 = AE 1996, 284; CIL 14, 425 = CIL 10, 542 = D 6170 = AE 1994, 319; AE 1989, 128; CIL 14, 451 = AE 1987, 176a; AE 1987, 196; AE 1987, 196; CIL 14, 451 = AE 1987, 176a.
55. AE 1974, 123bis a.
56. CIL 14, 330.
57. CIL 6, 1060 = CIL 6, 33858 = D 7225.
58. Tran 2006, p. 161.
59. CIL 14, 296 = D 1916.
60. Wierschowski 2001, p. 416, nr. 592.
61. Mommsen 1871, p. 279-280.
62. Grenier 1937, p. 480-481.
63. Strabo 4, 6, 11.
64. Le Bohec 2008, p. 200.
65. Banker: CIL 13, 1963. Producer of perfumes: CIL 13, 2602. Carpenter: CIL 13, 1939 = AE 1893, 63. Silverwares: CIL 13, 1948 = D 7704. *Utricularius*: CIL 13, 1960.
66. CIL 13, 1939 = AE 1893, 63
67. CIL 13, 1967: *faber* and *nauta*. CIL 13, 1966 = D 7028 = Lyon 251: *faber*, *nauta* and *negotiator*.
68. CIL 13, 1962; [D(is) M(anibus)] / [et securi]tat(i) / [aeter]nae / [et mem]oriae(?) / [---]anae / [--- Mar]tialis / [cum quo vixit ann(os) ---]I m(enses) VII / [negotiat(or?) mercium(?) I]talicar(um?) / [IIIIIIvir(?) Au]g(ustalis) honor(atus) / [c(oloniae) C(opiae) C(laudiae) Lu]guduni / [coni]ugi / optima / [et sanctissim]ae(?) et [
69. Badian 1989, p. 59.
70. AE 1982, 702: dealer in unguents and perfumes (*negotiator seplasiarius*), *nauta* and *centonarius*. CIL 13, 1972: *nauta*, *centonarius* and grain merchant.
71. Frank 1940, p. 246-251.
72. Mrozek 1994, p. 96-97.
73. Erdkamp 2005, p. 268-271. There is, however, very little consensus. For more information on this discussion see: Zuiderhoek 2008; Strubbe 1989; Garnsey and van Nijf 1998; Pavis d'Escurac, 1987. I am grateful to C. Pruydt for these references.
74. CIL 14, 2972 = D 6253 = EAOR 4, 24 (Palestrina); CIL 14, 3014 = D 6252 = EAOR 4, 23 (Palestrina); CIL 10, 5419 (Aquinum); EE 8-1, 140 (Sulmona).
75. Lomas 2003, p. 28.
76. CIL 9, 808 = D 5381 = EAOR 3, 29; CIL 9, 968; CIL 9, 1048 = D 5879; CIL 9, 2476 = D 5353; CIL 9, 6259; CIL 11, 3083 = D 5373 = SupIt-1-FN, 10; CIL 11, 6126; CIL 11, 6127; CIL 11, 6128.
77. AE 1991, 389.
78. CIL 9, 1618 = D 6507; CIL 14, 404.
79. Euergetismo-Fal, 8 = AE 1922, 89. A *ponderarium* was an office of weights and measures.
80. CIL 11, 1162 = D 3870.
81. CIL 12, 4320 = D 3632.
82. Laird 2006, p. 33.

- 83.** AE 1974, 123a; AE 2000, 632; AE 2008, 416; CIL 5, 560; CIL 5, 1897 = CIL 5, 1898 = CIL 5, 1899 = CIL 5, 1900 = CIL 5, 8664 = IRConcor 56 = ILLConcordia 1, 34; CIL 5, 4416 = InscrIt 10-5, 209; CIL 10, 1217 = D 5651; CIL 11, 6520 = D 6647 = AE 1999, 616; CIL 12, 530 = ILN 3, 23 = CAG 13-4, p. 412; CIL 12, 4354 = D 1064 = CAG 11-1, p. 308; CIL 12, 4397 = D 5495 = CAG 11-1, p. 412; CIL 12, 5864 = D 6999 = ILN 5-1, 72 = AE 2000, 898; CIL 9, 4691; InscrIt 10-4, 74; CIL 9, 4977 = D 6558; SupIt 8-Br, 4 = AE 1991, 823.
- 84.** AE 1928, 129; AE 1971, 90; CIL 5, 4438 = InscrIt 10-5, 230; CIL 5, 5276; CIL 9, 2835; CIL 9, 4208 = EAOR 3, 13 = AE 1992, 360; CIL 12, 4318 = CAG 11-1, p. 402 = AE 1992, 1224; CIL 13, 1751 = D 4131 = Lyon 337; CIL 14, 2977 = D 5194 = SEG 51, 1429; CIL 14, 3014 = D 6252 = EAOR 4, 23; EE 8-1, 632 = SIRIS 511 = RICIS 2, 502/702 = AE 1926, 89; Paestum 89 = AE 1975, 253.
- 85.** CIL 9, 2252; CIL 9, 4208 = EAOR 3, 13 = AE 1992, 360; CIL 11, 3782; CIL 14, 2794 = AE 1995, 28; SupIt 18-A, 19 = AE 1996, 609 = AE 2000, 507.
- 86.** Only *sportulae* or a meal mentioned: AE 1920, 97 = AE 1981, 342; CIL 11, 1027 = D 6671; CIL 11, 5716 = EAOR 2, 17; CIL 11, 5965; CIL 11, 6358 = D 6654 = Pisaurum 69.
- 87.** Expenditures and benefactions: 633 inscriptions out of 1469. Professional title: 114 inscriptions out of 1469. Total of 747 inscriptions out of 1469, or almost 51%.
- 88.** In other words, they followed the imposed procedures in the interaction with the 'practical world'. See Bourdieu 1980, p. 90.
- 89.** Bourdieu 1980, p. 90.
- 90.** Tran 2006.

ABSTRACTS

What was the economic role of **augustales* in the large commercial hubs of the Roman Empire? Inscriptions offer us some insight in the structure, size, and usage of the economic capital gathered by them. One leitmotif here is the question of whether the wealth of **augustales* aided them in enlarging their social network or in obtaining an honorific position, and therefore furthered their integration in local society. The first section of this paper concerns itself with the importance of occupational and geographical differentiation. How were occupational titles important for the expression of social status? Are there any differences between the "regular" attestations of professions and those who recorded membership of a professional association? Which professions were common among **augustales*? In which economic sectors do we encounter them? Are there indications of localised specialisation or geographical differentiation? Here, special attention is given to Ostia and Lugdunum. Finally, were **augustales* involved in the imperial grain dole? A second section discusses which expenditures and benefactions express the wealth of **augustales*, a proxy for their economic potential. How often do epigraphic attestations offer information on the role of **augustales* as benefactors in their cities (and sometimes beyond)? What was the magnitude and typology of the gift? Besides benefactions, other ways were available to **augustales* to stress the size of their economic capital. Did these other expenditures and benefactions overlap? How does this relate to other honours and/or privileges taken up by these **augustales*?

Quel rôle économique les **augustales* jouaient-ils dans les grandes places de commerce de l'Empire romain ? Les inscriptions donnent un aperçu de la structure, de la taille et de l'usage du capital économique qu'ils ont amassé. Un leitmotiv de l'historiographie consiste à déterminer si la richesse des **augustales* les a aidés à étendre leur réseau social ou à obtenir du prestige et donc à renforcer leur intégration dans les sociétés locales. La première partie de cet article porte sur l'importance des différenciations professionnelles et géographiques. Quelle était l'importance des titres professionnels dans l'expression du statut social ? Y a-t-il des différences entre la mention « ordinaire » d'un métier et la mention d'une appartenance à une association professionnelle ? Quels métiers les **augustales* pratiquaient-ils et dans quels secteurs les rencontrons-nous le plus souvent ? Quelle était la part des indications d'une spécialisation poussée et des différences géographiques dans la manière de s'y référer. Ici, une attention particulière est donnée à Ostie et à Lyon. Enfin, les **augustales* étaient-ils impliqués dans les distributions de blé public ? Une deuxième partie s'interroge sur la manière dont les dépenses et les bienfaits des **augustales* expriment leur richesse, comme un décalque de leur potentiel économique. Selon quelle fréquence l'épigraphie offre-t-elle des information sur le rôle de bienfaiteurs tenu par des **augustales* dans leur cité (et parfois au-delà) ? Quelle était l'éventail de leurs dons ? Outre les bienfaits, les **augustales* avaient d'autres moyens de souligner l'importance de leur capital économique. Est-ce que ces dépenses et leurs bienfaits se chevauchaient ? Comment s'articulaient-elles avec les autres honneurs et privilèges reçus par ces **augustales* ?

INDEX

Mots-clés: augustales, capitale économique, statut, différenciation géographique, spécialisation économique

Keywords: economic capital, status, geographical differentiation, economic specialisation

AUTHOR

LINDSEY VANDEVOORDE

FWO (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek), Université de Gand