

ABSTRACT

PROFILE OF A ROMAN CITIZEN: A PROSOPOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF CN. CORNELIUS LENTULUS MARCELLINUS

This study examines the ancestry, life, and accomplishments of Cn. Cornelius Lentulus Marcellinus, an aristocratic citizen of the late Roman Republic. Primary and secondary sources were researched and scattered references concerning Marcellinus were correlated to recreate his life in a holistic manner, within the context of the tumultuous last decades of the republic. Marcellinus's actions as *paterfamilias*, patron, soldier, politician, and priest are analyzed to uncover his identity as one of the "lesser" men of a generation which included the famous "greater" men such as Pompey, Caesar, Crassus, and Cicero. Re-evaluation of the ancient evidence from this new perspective, centered holistically on Marcellinus, provided new insights for interpretation of the data. Marcellinus represents a large number of citizens in the late Roman Republic who sustained Roman society by performing private and public duties with integrity and honor in opposition to the rising tide of greed and political ambition.

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