Nils Purwins. “The Noble Ones of Ērānšahr: Rank Titles and a Comparison with the Imperium Romanum”

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- 1 This article sets out to draw the divisions of Sasanian society in the sixth century through a study of its titles, particularly the titles of the nobility. It provides a dataset of rank titles in the Sasanian world. Positing that the rank systems of the two empires must have been close in correspondence, the article proposes a structure based on the Roman/Byzantine system under Justinian to study the rank titles, and their social placement, in the sixth century Sasanian Empire. Creative use of the evidence from the sealing impressions, textual sources such as the Tabarestān archives, and written sources from inside and outside the Iranian world make the article a very good starting point for further study. Useful tables, including comparative charts and a summary of the sources and their evidence further enrich the article. The lack of reference to religious ranks and their placement in the sixth century presents an obvious lacuna.

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