

experienced, +¹³
the most respected

Pö-pū.les'-guä

Mr. P. -- this is the 13th in my series

Mr. P. - For centuries, the Roman Senate was a body of the wisest, the best educated, the most vigilant, the most patriotic, the most ~~powerful~~ men of substance in the Roman Republic.

In the beginning, the Senate ~~apparently~~ had served as an advisory council to the monarchs. But the Senate arose to the pinnacle of majesty until, indeed, the ~~formula~~ for Roman state authority was scripted "SPQR" - "Senatus Populusque Romanus" - The Senate + the Roman People - the seal of approval under which Roman legions marched as they conquered the Mediterranean world.

The Roman Senate controlled the public purse, determined foreign policy, executed foreign policy, waged wars, approved or disapproved legislation, approved the elections of magistrates, + determined who should be entrusted with the power of "dictator" in a time of crisis for the state.

The Roman Senate was the guardian of the state! The Roman Senate was the conscience of the Republic!