The four who from the corporation of the decani arrive at the first grade of the
service, shall fill the office of chief (primiceratus) for the period of two years, and no one
shall be permitted to remain in that position longer, so that all favoritism and unlawful
desire shall cease and those next in grade shall succeed those who precede them, after the
completion of two years.
Given at New Constantinople November 4 (416).
C. Th. 6.33.1.

Note.
The decani here mentioned were servitors of a low rank, acting as doorkeepers
and messengers in the service of the women of the imperial household. They were
evidently divided into four separate bureaus, each with a chief (primicerius), who served
for the period of two years. See Boak, Master of Office, 37; 4 Pauly-Wissowa 2246. As
other bureau-officials, they could not again serve in the same capacity. C. 12.23.5;
C. 12.25.1. As noted in the next law, they were under the jurisdiction of the Master of
Offices.

12.26.2. Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian to Nomus, Master of Offices.
It is improper that the decani who belong to our household, should be dragged
into other tribunals, by those that want to sue them. They should need to appear only
before the tribunal of the illustrious master of offices. 1. In this manner the service of
Our Clemency will not be neglected, and the right to have them answer is given to those
who sue them. So we direct that, in accordance with the example established for the
imperial palace troops (scholares), no one shall be permitted to drag the above mentioned
persons to any other tribunal, and that those of them who are sued shall be committed to
the care of the primates of their department (for the appearance).
About 443-444.