

That imperial orders must have the signature of
the glorious quaestor.
(Ut divinae jussiones subscriptionem habeant
gloriosi quaestoris.)

The same Augustus (Justinian) to Theodotus, praetorian prefect.

Preface. The solicitude of Our Serenity is constantly bent upon the best interests of our subjects, and we never cease to investigate whether there is anything in our state which needs correction. And we undertake voluntary labors, so as to give peace to our subjects. We have perceived that it is for the benefit of all that we direct that imperial orders should be issued with caution, and that this may not be done at anyone's pleasure.

c. 1. And we direct by the present law that no imperial order, directed to any judge whatever, made out by the assistants of the magnificent quaestor, or by any other person, in whatever position of service, or of whatever rank he may be, or whatever office he may have, shall be accepted by any judge, unless it contains the notation of the magnificent quaestor, which states as to what persons it concerns, to what judge it is directed, and by whom it has been sent, so that, upon the removal of all doubt, no one will have any occasion for any excuse. All judges and administrative officers must know that if they, in any legal transaction, accept any imperial order, which does not contain the notation of the magnificent quaestor, they will be punished by a fine of twenty pounds of gold (\$4320), and their staff will be subjected to a penalty of a like amount. And we have directed them, dear and beloved Theodotus, that if any such (forbidden) order arrives, they shall report it to the aforesaid magnificent quaestor, or send such report, together with the man who brought it, so that the latter may be punished by the penalty which the laws fix for forgers.

Your Highness will cause this law, which shall be in force forever, to be known to all.

Given Nov. 1 (541)

Note.

As to the form of rescripts in general see particularly C. 1,23,7.