

Book XI.
Title LVI. (LV)

It shall not be permitted to the inhabitants of the mother village (metrocomiae) to transfer their places to an outside person.
(No licere metrocomiae habitatoribus loca sua ad extraneum transferree.)

11.56.1. Emperors Leo and Anthemius to Nicostratus, Praetorian Prefect.

We deemed it proper to provide that no permission to occupy any land shall be given to strangers in places which are commonly called mother-villages (metrocomiae); if any of these villagers desire to alienate their places, and transfer the ownership and possession thereof, to another, they shall not do so except to an inhabitant in, and a person inscribed in the census of, the mother city. If a stranger engages in such a transaction, contrary to law or attempts to occupy any land in such place, the contract shall be void, and nullified and only the amount paid shall be returned.

Given September 1 (468).

Note.

Metrocomiae.

The word metrocomiae implies a village which, without being large enough to be a town was nevertheless a center of administration for surrounding villages and hamlets. De Zulueta, de Patrociis 59. It had officers of its own whose duties it was, among other things, to see that the taxes, for which there was a joint liability, was collected, and they were under the general control of the authorities of the cities, the curials. The inhabitants of these villages were free, except that they were bound to the village, in other words, they were free serfs. As stated in this law, the property could not be transferred except to an inhabitant of the village. See generally, De Zulueta, supra; 1 Kuhn 271-273; M. Gelzer, Studien 75. Zacharia, G. R. 237; see C. 4.38.14.