

Book I.
Title XXIV.

Concerning statues and images.
(De statuīs et imaginibus.)

1.24.1. Emperors Arcadius and Honorius to Theodorus, Praetorian Prefect.

If any judge in an administrative position is discovered to have accepted brazen, silver, or marble statues without imperial grant, he shall bring into the fisc, together with the extorted or arrogated things of honor, fourfold the emoluments received by him while occupying this position of honor, which he disgraced by extorted or arrogated tokens of honor, and he will at the same time undergo the loss of his good name. Nor will those, of course, be immune from the danger of disgrace, who out of desire of adulation or from fear arising from wavering cowardice,¹ undertake to transgress what is forbidden. Given at Milan, December 21 (398).

Note.

If any governor inscribed his name on any work constructed with public money, without mentioning the imperial name, he was guilty of treason. C. 8.11.10.

1.24.2. Emperors Theodosius and Caesar Valentinian to Actius, Praetorian Prefect.

If at any time, whether on festal days, as is usual, or on ordinary days, statues or images of us are erected, the judge shall be present, without ambition for great adoration, but so that he may show that his presence has graced the day, the place, and our memory. Given May 5 (425).
C. Th. 15.4.1.

1. 24. 3. Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian to Florentius, Praetorian Prefect.

Whenever images or statues are erected to our Serenity, we direct that private contributions be refused² lest any contributor recognize anything as his own in them. Given April 3 (439).

1. 24. 4. The same emperors to Nomus, Count and Master of Offices.

It is proper that rewards of excellence should be granted to the deserving and that at the same time the honors of some should not be the occasion of injury to others. Whenever, therefore, any corporation or official body, in this sacred city or in the provinces, shall ask a statue to be erected to our judges or anyone else, the expense thereof shall not be paid out of assessments (against taxpayers), but it shall be erected at his own expense by the person in whose honor it is sought to be built. Given March 28 (444).

¹ Blume underlined “from fear arising from wavering cowardice,” placed a question mark next to it, & added the note: “What meaning?” Scott translated this phrase as: “through the fear of being considered slothful.” 6 [12] Scott 127.

² [Blume] Literally “the insult of private contribution shall be repulsed.” In other words, a private contribution was considered insulting in such a matter.