

Book XI.  
Title XV. (XIV.)

Concerning the privileges of the public labor associations of the City of Rome.  
(De privilegiis corporatorum urbis Romae.)

11.15.1. Emperors Valentinian, Theodosius and Arcadius to Alypius, City Prefect.

No one shall have the right, no one shall be permitted, to impose any new burden on the inhabitants in the city, but we direct that, [in honor of the eternal city, the privileges granted to the public labor associations shall be maintained.] The members of these guilds of the city of Rome, who have left for foreign lands shall, (however) by the order of the rectors of the provinces, be compelled to return so that they may perform the duties, which ancient usage has imposed on them.

Given at Aquileia July 14 (391).

C. Th. 14.2.2-4.

Note.

The labor associations in this title were called corporati, and they have been herein denominated as public-labor associations to distinguish them to some extent from other guilds already mentioned and from guilds of artisans. The weavers and dyers were also public labor associations, but they did not come within the designation of corporati, which name stood for the public labor associations mentioned in the next three titles and perhaps some others. They included bakers, swine and pork dealers, firemen, and, in Constantinople at least, corpse-dealers. See Kuhn, Verf. d. R. R. 80-82. See C. 4.63.5 as to firemen in Constantinople.