

Marcus Caelius Rufus – the Image of a Republican Politician in a Popular Literature

(Summary)

The article is an example of a scientific reflection on the historical crime novels of Steven Saylor. The research is concentrated on a historical figure of Marcus Caelius Rufus, whose appearance we can find in many novels of an American author. Despite the fictional plot and main character – detective Gordianus – many elements in the books are true according to historical facts. If we decide to give the way of describing Caelius by Saylor under our consideration and compare it with references of him in the remaining ancient sources, we can draw a conclusion that Saylor's knowledge of antiquity is incredible. It shows amazing skills of the novelist who can find and interpretate, without a mistake, any piece of information about Caelius. Saylor's Caelius is nothing but a precise construction built of information which was collected by the writer. Furthermore, novelist's Caelius is a proof of scientific skills of Saylor. It also shows that thesis that popular literature is missing epistemic value is misguided.

KEYWORDS: novel; Saylor; Gordianus; Caelius; republic; Rome

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Dr hab. Agnieszka Dziuba, prof. KUL (dziubak@kul.lublin.pl) – Katedra Filologii Łacińskiej, dyrektor IFK Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II. Obszar zainteresowań badawczych: deskrypcja bohatera historycznego okresu republiki rzymskiej w antycznych źródłach, epistolografia M.T. Cyclerona, historiografia rzymska, polsko-łacińska historiografia renesansowa, twórczość Marcina Kromera.