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PUBLIO VENTIDIO TRA OTTAVIANO E ANTONIO
NEI PRODROMI DEL II TRIUMVIRATO:
LA CELEBRAZIONE DI UN INTERVENTO
DI MEDIAZIONE POLITICA NEL *DENARIUS* DI BASSO

Abstract

Appian, Civil Wars 3, 80, 325-329 is the only source mentioning Publius Ventidius Bassus's role in mediating between Octavianus and Antony in the April of 43 b.C. Appian's evidence matches with the available information concerning Bassus' moves in that period as well as with those of the other leading politicians in the immediate aftermath of the war of Mutina. The note is also coherent with the fact that, after managing an alliance with the Senate, Caesar was at the time looking for an agreement with the other members of his party. Literary evidence has him engaged in negotiations with the future triumvirs in the Spring-Summer of 43. Further proofs of Appian's reliability are provided by the extraordinary honours which he was awarded when the second Triumvirate was established and by a denarius coined by Ventidius (RRC I n. 531), mentioning a salutatio imperatoria, arguably connected to Bassus' role in re-establishing peace among the Caesarians.