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ANCIENT WARFARE
VOL VIII, ISSUE 6

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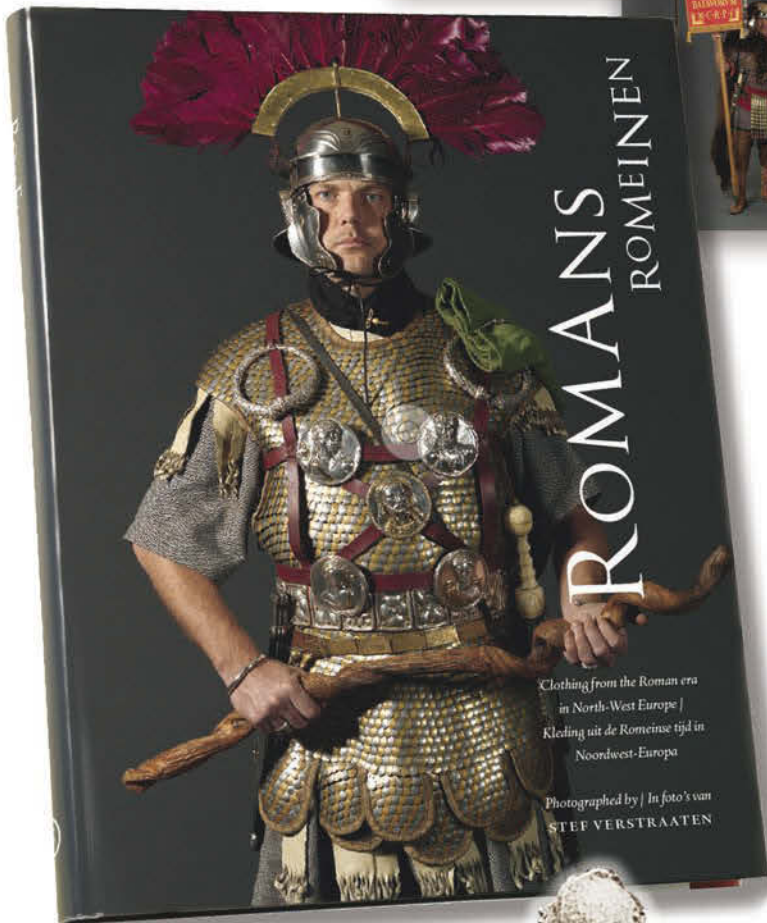
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Publisher: Rolof van Hövell tot Westerflier
 Managing Director: Jasper Oorthuys
 Editor: Josho Brouwers
 Design & Media: Christianne C. Beall
 Design © 2013 Karwansaray Publishers

Proofreaders: Christianne C. Beall, Damien Butler,
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Print: Grafi Advies

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Distribution

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Ancient Warfare is published every two months by Karwansaray B.V., Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
 PO Box 1110, 3000 BC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

ISSN: 2211-5129

Printed in the European Union.

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Editorial

This is the last issue of volume VIII of *Ancient Warfare*, and the 46th issue to have been published in total. Time flies! This also means that issue IX.4, to be published in September/October of 2015, will be the fiftieth issue of this magazine overall. That calls for celebration. Therefore, the theme for that issue will be the largest known conflict of the ancient world: the First Punic War (264–241 BC), which pitted the Roman Republic against the might of Carthage. At the end of this war, the island of Sicily, which had, until then, been the plaything of both the Greeks and Carthaginians, became Roman territory.

Furthermore, we also wanted to try something different for this fiftieth issue. As I recently announced on the editor's blog on our website, we are putting up a historical fiction competition. If you've always wanted to have a short story of yours published, now's your chance. The rules are simple. Firstly, you cannot take part in this competition if you are already an established writer of fiction published by a third party. If you've only ever had your nonfiction published (for example, in *Ancient Warfare*), you can still take part. Secondly, your short story cannot exceed 6,000 words in length. Thirdly, your story must be set in ancient times and the subject matter has to relate

to ancient warfare in some way. Finally, you should strive to be as historically accurate as possible, but don't feel compelled to write about a famous historical figure.

While I will collect all of the submissions, I won't have a particular say on which of these will be selected for publication. Instead, the winner of this contest will be determined by a panel of four judges, picked from some of the finest writers of historical fiction currently around. In alphabetical order, they are Christian Cameron (well-known for his *Tyrant* series of novels), Ben Kane (famous for his *Forgotten Legion Chronicles*), Anthony Riches (author of *The Emperor's Knives* and other books), and Harry Sidebottom (known for the *Warriors of Rome* series).

If you want to take part in our short story competition, be sure to send me your manuscript before 1 April 2015. You have to send me your text, as a Word file or a LibreOffice document, by email: editor@ancientwarfare.com will do, as always. If your piece is selected for publication, it will appear in issue IX.4. What is more, one of our great illustrators will also be assigned to create a full-page illustration based on your story.

So get writing and good luck!

—Josho Brouwers
Editor, *Ancient Warfare*

A new way to explore the past from your armchair

Everyone loves something for nothing, but all too often what you get isn't worth having. When I learned about a no-fee course on the Internet about Hadrian's Wall my interest was piqued, but my level of expectation was low. However, for that price I was willing to give it a try to find out if it was any good.

The course was hosted at www.futurelearn.com. The website presentation looked slick and the blurb on the course sounded enticing: "Explore the archaeology of the most heavily fortified frontier in the Roman Empire, its people and their lives." To my surprise the content was created by

Newcastle University – and if any institution knows about the Wall it is NU. That clinched it. I registered. From the menu of courses I found 'Hadrian's Wall: Life on the Roman Frontier' and, a few clicks later, I was enrolled. Sitting comfortably, I began.

The course was split into six weekly classes, each with up to twenty segments or 'steps'. Topics included design and construction of the Wall, the Roman army as it evolved during its occupation, frontier communities, religion and the end of the Wall. Each segment typically had a short video lecture, usually presented by Ian