

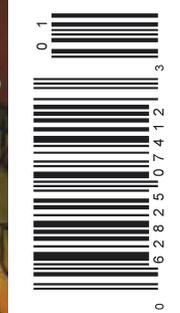
AW

ANCIENT WARFARE

VOL IX, ISSUE 1

WWW.ANCIENT-WARFARE.COM // KARWANSARAY PUBLISHERS

US/CN \$9.99 // €7.50



2015

THE END OF EMPIRE

The fall of Rome

THEME – THE CATALAUNIAN FIELDS // THE VANDALS IN AFRICA // THE WAR OF RAVENNA
SPECIALS – THE GORGON’S HEAD IN GREEK WARFARE // THE BATTLE OF AEGOSPOTAMI

From Stef Verstraaten:

ROMANS

Clothing from the Roman era in
North-West Europe

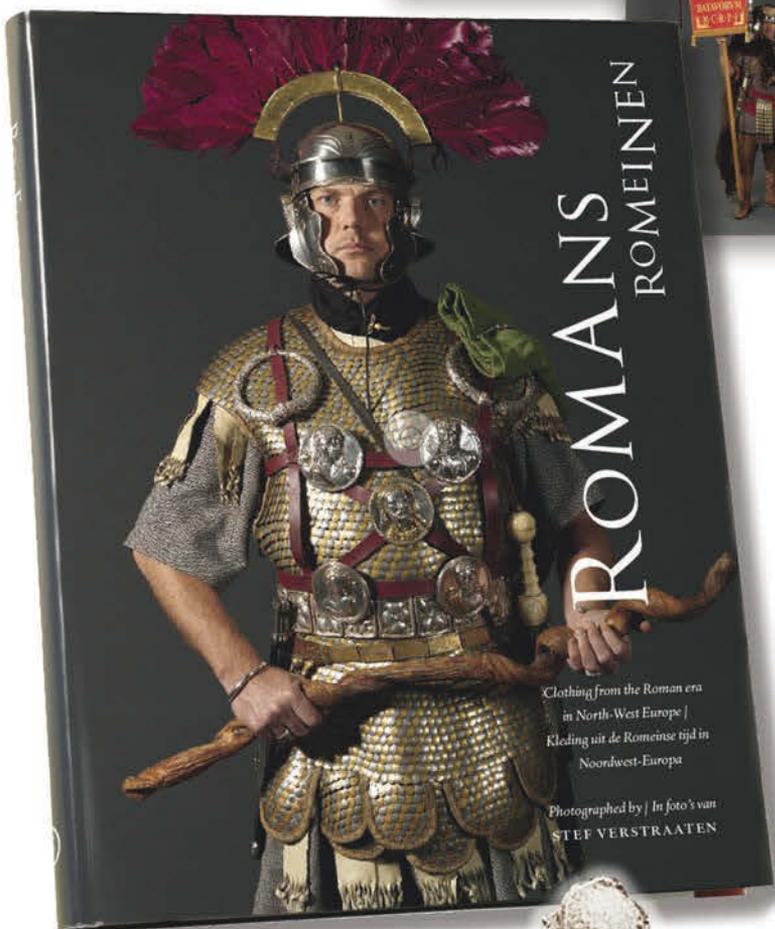
*A gorgeous collection of photographs
reconstructing civilian and military
dress from the Republic through
Late Roman times.*

Photo book, large format (37 x 29 cm),
200 pages / 150 full-color photos
Photography by Stef Verstraaten, with text by
Paul van der Heijden and Jasper Oorthuys

€ 49,⁵⁰ (shipping not included)

The book is available from:

www.kp-shop.com



AW

ANCIENT WARFARE

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

Proofreaders: Christianne C. Beall, Damien Butler,
 Marc G. DeSantis, Arianna Sacco

Contributors: Matthew Beazley, Duncan Campbell,
 Sidney Dean, Marc G. DeSantis, Gabriele Esposito,
 Robert Holmes, Jona Lendering (news), Marc McCaffery,
 Konstantin Nossov, Jean Du Plessis, Corrado Re,
 David L. Reinke, Robert Vermaat.

Illustrators: Jorge Barrero, Carlos García, Milek Jakubiec,
 Julia Lillo, Radu Oltean, Angel García Pinto,
 Maxime Plasse, Johnny Shumate.

Print: Grafi Advies

Editorial office

PO Box 4082, 7200 BB Zutphen, The Netherlands
 Phone: +31-575-776076 (NL), +44-20-8816281 (Europe), +1-740-994-0091 (US)
 E-mail: editor@ancient-warfare.com
 Customer service: service@karwansaraypublishers.com
 Website: www.ancient-warfare.com

Contributions in the form of articles, letters, reviews,
 news and queries are welcomed. Please send to the
 above address or use the contact form on
 www.ancient-warfare.com

Subscriptions

Subscriptions can be purchased at
 www.kp-shop.com, via phone or by email. For the
 address, see above.

Distribution

Ancient Warfare is sold through retailers,
 the internet and by subscription. If you wish
 to become a sales outlet, please contact us at
 service@karwansaraypublishers.com

Copyright Karwansaray B.V. All rights reserved. Nothing
 in this publication may be reproduced in any form
 without prior written consent of the publishers. Any
 individual providing material for publication must
 ensure that the correct permissions have been obtained
 before submission to us. Every effort has been made
 to trace copyright holders, but in few cases this proves
 impossible. The editor and publishers apologize for any
 unwitting cases of copyright transgressions and would
 like to hear from any copyright holders not acknowl-
 edged. Articles and the opinions expressed herein do
 not necessarily represent the views of the editor and/
 or publishers. Advertising in *Ancient Warfare* does not
 necessarily imply endorsement.

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.



THEME: THE END OF EMPIRE

This issue deals with the events leading up to the end of the Western Roman Empire at the hands of the barbarian hordes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 The fall of Rome
Historical introduction | 18 Scourge of God
Battle of the Catalaunian Plains |
| 9 The Vandals as saviour
The career of a Late Roman general | 24 Barbarica conspiratio
The breaking of Roman Britain |
| 12 The walls of Rome
The eternal cities greatest structure | 26 The Vandal menace
The Vandals capture of Northern Africa |
| 16 The reenactor
A late Roman heavy infantryman | 34 Odoacer & Theodoric vie for Italy
The War of Ravenna |

SPECIAL FEATURES.....

- | | |
|--|---|
| 40 Terrifying defence
The <i>Gorgoneion</i> and ancient armour | 50 Hollywood Romans
Box office gladiators |
| 45 Cunning vs. incompetence
What really happened at Aegospotami? | |

DEPARTMENTS.....

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 News & letters
Opinions and recent developments | 58 On the cover
The Visigoths take Rome |
| 53 Reviews
Books, games and media | |

12

AN EVOLVING DEFENCE
Rome's walls were a masterpiece of technology that withstood attacks for centuries.

18

ATTILA IN ITALY
The Romans repelled the Huns at the Catalaunian Plains, but it was to be a Pyrrhic victory.

40

FACE OF A MONSTER
The Gorgon's head was used to make ancient arms and armour more terrifying to behold.

NEWS & LETTERS

Editorial



It's good to be able to shake up a formula every once in a while. As of this issue, you can now look forward to a new segment in *Ancient Warfare* called 'Hollywood Romans'. Every issue, either David L. Reinke or Graham Sumner will be writing a short article about the ancient world on the big screen. David has the honour of kicking off this new segment with a piece that compares the success of movies featuring chariot races with those about gladiators (pp. 50–51). An expanded version of the article is available on our website.

But there is even more exciting news! Here at Karwansaray Publishers, we are planning to launch an all-new magazine devoted to the ancient world in general. This new *Ancient History Magazine* will be similar to *Ancient Warfare* (i.e. accessible articles and gorgeous artwork and photos), but obviously broader in scope.

That is, if we can get the magazine off the ground. When this issue of *Ancient Warfare* arrives at either your house or your local bookstore, most likely somewhere in the second half of March 2015, we should just have launched a campaign for the new magazine over on Kickstarter. Kickstarter is a crowd-funding platform on the internet (kickstarter.com)

where you can pledge a sum of money to support a project and receive something in return (e.g. a small amount of dough will net you a paper copy of the magazine, a slightly larger amount will buy you both a digital and a paper copy of the magazine, and so on).

If you think *Ancient History Magazine* sounds like a good idea, I encourage you to visit ancienthistorymagazine.com and to support the Kickstarter campaign. The initial push is to get one proper issue out, but if there is enough support for the magazine, we want to launch it as a going concern, at which point a new issue will appear every two months, with each focusing on a particular theme, just like *Ancient Warfare* (but different!).

Responses online have been overwhelmingly positive, though some have voiced their concern as to the future of *Ancient Warfare*. Don't worry: *Ancient Warfare* isn't going anywhere. The new *Ancient History Magazine* will be similar in appearance, but completely different as far as content is concerned. A short PDF sample should be available on our website by the time that you read this, and should give you a good idea of what the new magazine will be about.

— Josho Brouwers
Editor, *Ancient Warfare*

Where is Psinabla? And does it matter?

If the study of the past was just the establishing of facts, we would soon lose interest. For example, just describing the structure of the Roman military bureaucracy – which officer was responsible for what and when? – does not inspire much enthusiasm, although the puzzle itself can be enjoyable.

Things become more interesting, however, when we go beyond reconstructing things, start asking questions, and give our past meaning. Military bureaucracy may in itself be an unexciting subject, but we can also ask whether it was efficient. Were orders actually carried out? Were the available means properly allocated? Was the

Roman army really the well-oiled war machine we're always told it was?

The archive of the *strategos* of Panopolis (modern Akhmim in Central Egypt) offers intriguing clues. It has come down to us in the form of two lengthy papyrus scrolls, now in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin. The first scroll, dated to September 298, documents how an important officer, Apollinarius, prepares his military district for the visit of the emperor Diocletian, while the other scroll contains incoming letters from a financial official, all dated to February 300. The texts show in great detail the workings of the Roman military bureaucracy.