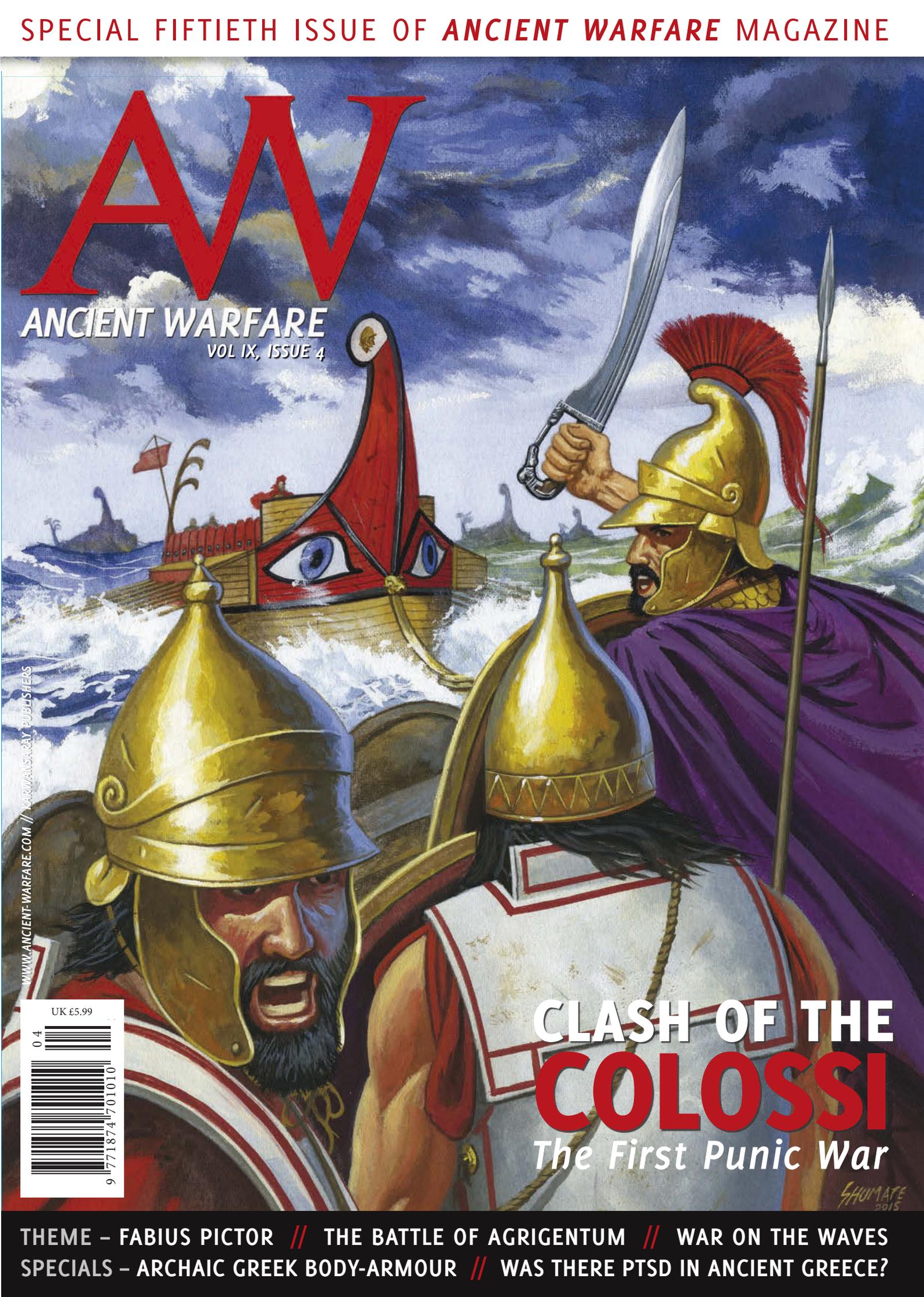


# AW

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## CLASH OF THE COLOSSI *The First Punic War*

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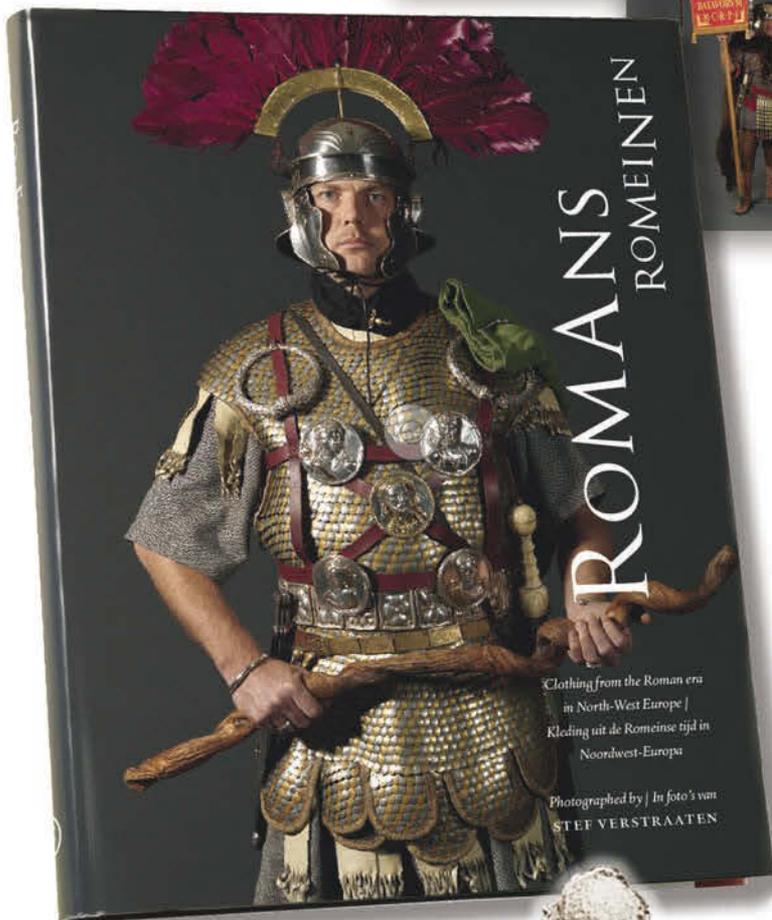
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Rome and Carthage collide in the largest conflict of Antiquity.

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The Carthaginians included elephants in their armies.

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A reconstruction of a heavily-armoured Greek warrior.



## PRELIMINARIES

### Editorial

This is the fiftieth issue of *Ancient Warfare* to have appeared since 2007, not counting the Special issues on the Varian Disaster (2009), the Roman *centuria* (2010), and the Battle of Marathon (2011), or the books. To mark the occasion, this issue is extra-thick, weighing in at 84 pages. The theme fits the issue, too, as the First Punic War is the largest conflict of the ancient world, a clash between the mighty empire of Carthage and the growing Roman Republic, with the island of Sicily serving as the fulcrum of the war.

You may also recall that, last year, I organized a historical fiction contest. I received nearly 40 submissions from aspiring writers of historical fiction, which I read through and then sent on to a panel of four esteemed judges. The judges were noted novelists Ben Kane, Christian Cameron, Anthony Riches, and Harry Sidebottom. They read through the submissions (thanks again!) and picked their winner. Congratu-

lations thus go to Marcus Pailing, whose short story is published between pages 54 and 63, and lavishly illustrated by Simon Walpole. I hope it will offer a nice change of pace and that you will enjoy reading it.

The two non-theme-related articles in this issue are also noteworthy, I think. Wasilis Stephan Linidis has written an in-depth article on how he developed his extra-heavy Archaic Greek hoplite kit (readers may favourably compare the article to Dan Howard's piece on reconstructing Homeric armour in *Ancient Warfare* VIII.4). Last but certainly not least, Dr Jason Crowley and Owen Rees contributed a Debate article on PTSD in ancient Greece. They each have a different opinion on the matter and present their case to the reader. I am curious to hear which side of the debate you're on after reading it!

—Josho Brouwers  
Editor, *Ancient Warfare*

### Barbarians losing their heads in Londinium

Four human skulls lie in a glass display case at the Museum of London. Two of the brown-hued crania have very large holes on the right or left side of the head. There's a jawbone too; part has been smashed off, but it also shows signs of having been chewed by a dog while it was still fleshed. They form the grisly centrepiece of an exhibition. *Glory and Gore* examines the true story of captives, crime and capital punishment in Londinium, Roman Britain's leading city.

The skulls came from a cache of around 40 individuals found at 52–63 London Wall, London in 1988. After the remains were excavated, the 39 skulls and one femur were deposited in the Museum of London, but it was only until recently that full forensic analysis was completed, thanks to advances in research and technology.

A quarter century later, Dr Rebecca Redfern, curator of human osteology of the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology, Museum of London, and Dr Heather Bonney, collections manager from the Earth Sciences Department at the Natural History Museum, used carbon dating and other forensic anthropology and entomology techniques to study the remains. They identified the majority of the skulls as belonging to males aged between 25 and 45 from sometime between AD 120 and 160. Two others date from AD 40–100.

Most had evidence for multiple perimortem blunt- and sharp-force injuries. Many had healed injuries, suggesting that violence was a regular feature of their lives. The large holes occurred when the victims were struck in the head, sometimes many