

# NEWS FROM THE ANCIENT TIMES

145 BC



## CHARIOT RACES BECOME THE MOST POPULAR AT THE OLYMPICS

*In this Olympic Games, it was widely accepted by the enthusiastic public*



### Chariot Races, on top

This game, played by teams, is one of the Olympic Games. Only

talented Roman men can perform it in racetracks called *circus*. There are *circuses* all over the Empire.

The chariots are often driven by slaves that sometimes become famous and rich. The teams are identified with a colour: red, white, blue and green. Many times fights break out between teams and these fights

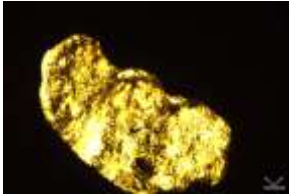
can bring injuries to a team mate. There are fights in the same team. In the race people can die in the crashes that usually occur. Also the horses are in danger as well!!

This popular game was mentioned for the first time by the poet Homer at the funeral games of Patroclus. Probably, our Roman ancestors have borrowed it from the Etruscans and the Greeks.

[Andrade,P;Kohan,Iael;Morales,Facundo](#)

# Gold and Silver found in a Roman Province

118 AD



## Miners found gold and silver in South Hispania

Last week, some skilled miners from the province of Gaul found gold and silver in a huge mine in South Hispania. They have been working in this mine for months, until finally, on Saturday, they found what they were looking for.

This discovery along with the finding of diamonds in Sicily, show how mining is becoming a very important economic activity of the Empire. The gold and silver will be used for the production of valuable coins. These coins could make Rome rich again.



Our reporters travelled to Hispania to get declarations from different people. We talked to a citizen who declared: *“Oh yes, a friend of mine told me. I think it is wonderful that Hispania can play an important role in the economic growth of the Empire.”*

A miner, who was very shocked, declared: *“It was amazing, once we had found the precious metal. It was a very good experience to help the Empire like this.”* -

Hadrian, the new Emperor, was very pleased and grateful. *“Thank you for finding metals that are so valuable for our Empire. We need coins for trading. I promise the miners will have a recognition for their hard work, considering they are slaves, of course”*- the Emperor said.

This gold and silver give the economy of the Empire a breath. Let's pray the Gods and Goddesses that more of this metal is found.

# Gods, Goddesses and Gossip!

*BC 240*

## *Interesting news and gossips from the gods' world.*



### A true love story!

Our reporters could finally find out about the complicated

love story that made our most famous goddess, Venus, get really angry! .

The jealous **Venus**, goddess of love and fertility, envied Psyche's beauty. It's said that she couldn't stand it anymore. She called her son Cupid, who has the power to make people fall in love with just one of his golden arrows, to stab one of his famous arrows in Psyche's arm while she was sleeping to make her fall in love with a beast!

Everyone in the Pantheon of gods thought that Venus would get what she wanted as usual, but what she didn't expect is that Cupid fell in love with Psyche when he was going to stab her!

When Cupid came back home with no good news for Venus, the goddess got so mad that she placed a curse on the poor Psyche. *"She will never find a man to get married muahahaha"* -she declared to our reporter. As Venus did so, Cupid was so upset that he decided not to throw any arrows as long as Psyche's curse remained.

As Cupid no longer threw any arrows, the world started to get old! There was no man or either animal that fell in love, married or mated. Venus's kingdom of love was beginning to fall. Very concerned about this, she finally agreed with Cupid's demands and left Psyche free from her course.

Soon after ,Cupid, who is still in love with the beautiful Psyche, ordered Zephyrus, the West wind, to take her to a magnificent place where every day she can be served by servants and every night Cupid can go and sleep with her.



# Unknown gods worshipped by citizens of the Empire.

182 AD

***“There are a lot of different and interesting religious beliefs out there,” Apollonius confirmed to our reporter. But to worship new gods is against the Roman laws.***



Apollonius, who is an apologist and investigator, was intrigued about religious beliefs outside of the Empire and decided to travel all the way to India. This brought lots of problems to the Roman government that will probably not end because Apollonius spread the beliefs he found all over the Empire and now, as a consequence, a lot of people adopted them. *“I never wanted to bring problems to the Empire. The trip I made was only for investigating and knowing new cultures, for my own knowledge mainly. All the same, these other religions are quite similar to ours since they are based on Greek gods as well, just like our Roman gods,”* -Apollonius, the wise man, declared to our reporter.

The problems which Apollonius refers are mainly because the government only accept worshipping other Gods if the official Roman gods are not rejected. This is exactly what people are doing right now, since they are not worshipping both Roman and mystery gods. *“The real problem is that due to that, a lot less sacrifices and offerings are being made to the Roman gods. Less sacrifices equals less help from them. And don't you think that we deserve their protection?,”* emperor Commodus has recently complained. He is quite right, but on the other hand he was the one who supported the idea of adapting or basing Roman beliefs on others.

Meanwhile, Apollonius expects that everything will be fine as long as *“the people of our Empire could feel and be free to explore these new religions.”*

## IMPORTANT EXHIBITION OF ART AND MUSIC AT THE FORUM

*Roman art is influenced by the culture and traditions of different parts of the Empire. Today,an exhibition will be admired at the Forum*



**Slimilar, but not the same**

Roman art comes out of Etruscan art, and at first it is a lot like Etruscan art. It also has a close relationship with the Greek culture.

But, Roman people are particularly interested in *portraiture*, which is a representation of the face of a person (generally famous) and based on real features rather than idealistic ones. We see a lot of portraitures everywhere because our people believe that keeping a good image of somebody's face would keep the ghost happy after they had died, so the ghost wouldn't haunt them.

After 200 BC, the expansion and conquests of new lands around the Mediterranean grew ,so new ideas and art styles were brought.

---

For example,the master piece of Augustus' Ara Pacis shows a lot of influence from the Greek art.

Wall painting to decorate houses is a very Roman style ,too.

Nowadays, it is very fashionable to have *fresco* paintings on the walls to make them look like marble panels (but it's a lot cheaper than marble panels!). To admire our art ,a very important exhibition with sculptures and frescoes will be displayed at the Forum today. Artists will be present at the event to explain their art works.The public will also be delighted by the music played by the famous lire musician ,Agripa Solarius.

---

# ROMAN FASHIONABLE TOGAS ARE EVERYWHERE IN THE STREETS OF THE EMPIRE

*“No matter if you wear a toga or a tunic ;what matters is the color and the fabric of the clothes”-declared a famous clothes designer*



## Togas,tunics and bullas

Any Roman can tell how important or wealthy a person is from their *toga*.

Togas look like a white sheet. They are arranged very carefully, in a stylish way. But some people feel cold when they wear it.

Free Roman men wear the toga instead of a cloak. The toga is made from white wool or white Egyptian linen.

It is square or rectangular in shape and is worn draped around the body. The toga is worn often during state occasions. Consuls and senators wear a toga edged with purple.

Some Roman senators wear white togas that are ten mts long.

Some emperors' togas are made entirely from either purple or black cloth. Black togas, though,are usually only worn in times of mourning.

The Romans like to switch from togas to comfortable *tunics*, which look like long tee-shirts.



They are far more practical. Tunics are made of cool linen, for summer wear, and

warm wool, for winter wear.

Boys wear a tunic down to their knees. It was white, with a crimson border. Once a boy become a man, at the age of 16 or 17, he put aside his childish clothes, and wears an all-white tunic.

Coming of age and becoming a citizen, is quite a celebration.



The boy dresses himself in a white tunic, which his father adjusts. The day ends with a dinner party, given by the

father, in honor of the new Roman citizen.

Girls wear a simple tunic with a belt. When they go outside, they wear a second tunic that reaches their feet.

All Roman children wear a special locket around their neck, given to them at birth, called a *bulla*.

It contained an amulet as a protection against evil and is worn on a chain, cord, or strap.

Girls have their bulla until the eve of their wedding day, when their bulla is set aside with other childhood things, like her toys.

Boys have their bulla until the day they became a citizen but it can be wore by the owner again, if he wins special honors.

# ROMAN CITIZENS ARE UNHEALTHY USED TO BLOODY EVENTS

*Public executions had always been present in our history. "It's becoming insane"-a well respected citizen declared*

## Bloody days



Executions and more executions. They are present in Roman games and also in life. The people being executed are mainly thieves or criminals, sometimes innocent people or slaves. And, of course, they are killed in public.

For a long time, people found it fun (even children!). Executions can also take place in circuses, at the opening of the plays in the Colosseum or in a street... anywhere and people would pay to see them!

There are many different types of executions. One of them is when wild

animals (such as bears, lions, tigers, etc) fight with human beings. Most of these animals are hunted in barbarian lands and carried directly to circuses or to the Colosseum for the fights.

Another type of execution is *hanging* people by their necks or cutting their heads off with a sword or maybe just pushing them from a cliff. Another popular method is *crucifixion*: people are nailed to a large wooden cross and left hanging until death.

Other cruel methods are: being burnt alive or being stamped by wild horses.

No matter what method is used, it is clear that executions are a bloody chapter in our everyday lives.

## SLAVES COMPLAIN BECAUSE OF CRUELTY OF THEIR OWNERS

*“This is a real nightmare”-declared a rich slave owner to one of our reporters.*



Slaves are the keystone of our economy

Who are slaves in the Empire? They are people who are frequently captured in battle and sent back to Rome to be sold. However, abandoned children can also be brought up as slaves. The law also states that fathers can sell their older children if they are in need of money.

Nowadays as it was in the past, wealthy Roman citizens can buy slaves in a market place. Young and healthy males are very expensive. Also people who have special skills are very expensive,too.. Once bought, a slave is a slave for life. A slave can only get their freedom if they are given it by their owner or if they buy their

freedom– a virtually impossible task. They are the keystone of our economy all around the Empire because they do all sort of activities .Recently, the complains of slaves because they consider that they are unhumanly treated by their owners have raised.

Angus Septimus; a slave owner declared to our reporter :-*“There are good and bad slaves. Unfortunately, I bought a useless one. Sometimes I have to kick him and whip him so that he respects me and obey my commands,”* he confirms.

On the other hand ,Optimus Primus, another slave owner, declared :-*“My salve sometimes disobeys me. However, I understand his situation and instead of kicking him I teach him and treat him with good manners”-* he concluded.

537 BC

## ETRUSCAN VICTORY AT ALALIA

*The Punic-Etruscan fleet of 120 ships defeated the Greek force of sixty ships and the nearby colony of Alalia (now Aléria) was taken over by the Etruscans.*



Our  
people  
fought  
with  
honor

**CORSICA**-Ten years ago, our Etruscan monarchy made an alliance with Carthage to be protected against the emerging trading power in the West, the Greeks. The Greeks have been attacking our ships for a long time affecting trade in the Mediterranean Sea.

Finally the time for action arrived a couple of months ago when Greek ships were observed in Sardinian waters. The Etruscan and Carthaginian vessels, combined fleet of 120 ships and went to meet the invaders in the nearby colony of Alalia,in Corsica. The

Greek forces replied by sailing their own vessels, sixty in number.

In the battle, the Greek fleet suffered heavy losses, for forty of their vessels were destroyed and the remaining twenty had big damages and need to be fixed .

“The treaty between Etruria and Carthage will be renewed and the alliance will get stronger”- one of the senators declared.

The treaty also covers commercial matters and divide the Western Mediterranean into spheres of interest, between Carthage ,that retains Sardinia and Etruria that retains Corsica.

## FUNNY DAYS FOR FEW WOMEN; MISERABLE ONES FOR MOST OF THEM



### Good times; Bad times

---

Most women in our society are not given much power. Politics and trade are clearly male domains. For most women, life is very hard while for others, it is pretty easy.

For example, wealthy women have much of their daily labor done by slaves. A slave will help wash the female master's face, give her a rubdown with scented oils, and spend hours setting her hair into curls. They also spend much of their days socializing and planning their next entertainment with their friends. Few women are fortunate enough to lead a life of leisure. Women are in charge of raising children and keeping house. Since there is no birth control, women are often pregnant. Men will leave the house in the morning for work till about noon, and then spend the afternoon relaxing at the baths or a public entertainment event. When a man

returns home, he expects to find his house in order.

Amaulia Pia Baronius, a rich woman recalls to our reporter: *“For me it’s easy, I don’t have to wash or clean. My slaves do all the disgusting jobs including looking after my children!! I also have this Greek slave that is a very smart teacher and they love him.*

*My great concern is that my curls don’t look as cool as I expect when the weather is very humid and I have to meet other women of my social status”.*

On the other hand, Lucila Casius; has more important issues to be concerned: *”My life is very hard. I wake up very early in the morning to start working in the house: I do the washing up, I clean and prepare the meals, I look after my kids. I have no slaves. And almost never go out except for buying the food and other things that we need. My husband works hard too.*

*The only thing I don't like about him is that he is always very critical of everything I do.. I believe that most Roman men are that way!"*-she declared to our reporter.

But ,of course,the most miserable lives are held by the women who are slaves.

# **Hadrian Wall and the Roman roads are the most famous constructions in the Empire**

51 BC

*The purpose of the wall was to separate the Romans from the “Barbarians” and the network of roads facilitate transport and trade*



## **Roman roads and walls**

The Hadrian Wall was built across one of the narrowest parts of England, linking two rivers. It stretched between the East from the Wallsend on the river Tyne, near Newcastle and to the West reaching to the Solway.

The Hadrian Wall is a boundary measuring 73 miles (117 km) in length (equivalent to 80 Roman Miles). The 42 miles of the Eastern section was the first to be built using stone. The 31 miles Western section was initially built using turf – to hasten the completion of the barrier. At the highest point it was 3.6 metres high – 12 feet and 2.4 metres wide- eight feet.

The construction of the Ancient Roman roads were of major importance to the Romans and their vast Empire. The roads allowed fast and easy access and a vital communication network across hundreds of miles of territory. The building of the Roman roads provided the means for

faster travel stretching approximately 51,000 miles across the Empire. It is therefore not surprising that we still repeat the saying “all roads led to Rome”. The map below shows the territories and provinces of the Roman Empire in 395 AD, illustrating the tremendous achievement of building the network of roads. Many miles of roads were built by the Romans in Britain. The first great ancient road to be built in Britain was called the Fosse Way. The Fosse Way extended from Exeter to Lincoln, passing through the towns of Bath, Gloucester and Leicester.



# TRAVELLERS SEEK FOR MIRACULOUS CURE

AD 120

*Aquae Sulis is a wonderful place, where people share their illnesses and sorrows with the goddess Sulis Minerva.*



This is a magic place, a lot of people come here to heal themselves and it

actually works!! It is said that the Aquae Sulis baths in Britannia connect us with the underworld and the goddess Minerva. It is also said that giving her gifts brings you benefits.

Many people from all around the Empire come here to clean themselves from illnesses and not only that, you can also ask the goddess to harm your enemies by offering her tablets with curses against them.

Severus, a slave who works in the baths, said: -“*All sorts of people come through these doors, hundreds every day from any social group. Many of them are local, but some come from overseas.*” He also complained that “*with so many visitors to the bath house, there's always plenty of cleaning to be done. I'll probably finish up my days sweeping the floors.*” He knows that it is hard to work here but he loves the animal mosaics that you can find there.

Lucius is a famous priest of the temple, he sacrifices animals at the baths: “*I examine the entrails or insides of the beast when it has been killed, and from that, I can read the wishes of*

*the goddess. For example, I can tell whether she's pleased or angry. We believe that the spring is a direct link to the underworld and the gods.*” -he added -.

Sick travellers come here searching for a cure like Priscus, who has come all the way from Gaul just to pray to the goddess Minerva: “*Recently I've been having a lot of problems with my health so I decided to come to make an offering to the goddess Sulis Minerva and ask her to make me feel better.*” He also told our reporters that one of his ten friends who came with him from Gaul has a terrible problem in one of his legs, so “*he brought a little model made of clay to throw to the waters. In that way the goddess will know which part of his body she has to heal*”- he concluded-.



# Life in the Countryside

202 AD

Living in the countryside makes life more comfortable.

Even better than living in the city!



*“In the countryside the kids can play the same games as in the city. You can also enjoy hunting, riding, fishing, and also have a busy social life with*

*other villas owners-.”*-a rich owner of a villa told us.

The classic *villa* took many architectural forms, with many examples employing *atrium* or *peristyle*, for enclosed spaces open to light and air so now you don't have to open the door to feel the fresh air.

Deeper in the countryside, even non-commercial villas are largely self-supporting with associated farms and vineyards.

Large villas dominate the rural economy of the Po valley, Campania, and Sicily, and you can find more in Gaul. Villas specializing in the sea-going export of olive oil to Roman legions in Germany are a feature of the southern Iberian province of Hispania.

Certain areas near Rome offer cool lodgings in the heat of summer. The emperor Hadrian built a villa at Tibur (Tivoli) that is more like a palace, as Nero's palace. Also the famous Cicero had several villas.

Nowadays rich Romans have at least one villa. They have luxurious houses with hypocaust-heated rooms with mosaic floors. Most of them are protected by giant walls because there are attacks from Germanic people all around.



# TRAVELLERS SEEK FOR MIRACULOUS CURE

AD 120

*Aquae Sulis is a wonderful place, where people share their illnesses and sorrows with the goddess Sulis Minerva.*



This is a magic place, a lot of people come here to heal themselves and it actually works!! It is said that the Aquae Sulis baths in Britannia connect us with the underworld and the goddess Minerva. It is also said that giving her gifts brings you benefits.

Many people from all around the Empire come here to clean themselves from illnesses and not only that, you can also ask the goddess to harm your enemies by offering her tablets with curses against them.

Severus, a slave who works in the baths, said: -“*All sorts of people come through these doors, hundreds every day from any social group. Many of them are local, but some come from overseas.*” He also complained that *“with so many visitors to the bath house, there's always plenty of cleaning to be done. I'll probably finish up my days sweeping the floors.”* He knows that it is hard to work here but he loves the animal mosaics that you can find there.

Lucius is a famous priest of the temple, he sacrifices animals at the baths: *“I examine the entrails or insides of the beast when it has been*

*killed, and from that, I can read the wishes of the goddess. For example, I can tell whether she's pleased or angry. We believe that the spring is a direct link to the underworld and the gods.”* -he added .-

Sick travellers come here searching for a cure like Priscus, who has come all the way from Gaul just to pray to the goddess Minerva: *“Recently I've been having a lot of problems with my health so I decided to come to make an offering to the goddess Sulis Minerva and ask her to make me feel better.”* He also told our reporters that one of his ten friends who came with him from Gaul has a terrible problem in one of his legs, so *“he brought a little model made of clay to throw to the waters. In that way the goddess will know which part of his body she has to heal”*- he concluded-.



# WOMAN GLADIATOR KILLED!

153 AD

***Roman world most famous woman gladiator was killed during a fight at Londinium's new amphitheatre.***



## The death of Amazonia

Her body was removed from the arena by a man dressed as Hermes Psychopompus. Amazonia was a twenty year old woman gladiator. She went to Britain to perform a fight but she didn't know that it was going to be her last performance. She fought with another female gladiator called Achillia.

People were very excited for watching Amazonia and Achilla fighting mainly because most gladiators are men. *"Amazonia's fight should be popular because audiences seem to really enjoy watching women in gladiatorial combat,"* said Pubilius Cornelius Botar ,the referee. The seats were taken very quickly so it was better to go earlier to get a good one. "Seats are taken very quickly because everyone enjoys watching the fight very close," said Gaius Julius Verecudus who went to watch the fight in the new amphitheatre.

Both women were armed with a *gladius* ,a small sword with two sharp edges. There were people selling outside the amphitheatre

"People love to buy souvenirs when they have a day out," said Valleria Callityche who sells lots of pottery of Samian style.

The fatal blow that killed Amazonia came just five minutes after the fight has started. Her remains will be buried outside the boundaries of the cemetery near the amphitheatre.

The people of the Empire are going to miss Amazonia a lot because she was one of the



best woman gladiators and no other gladiator will ever replace her!

# ROMAN FOOD IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED ALL OVER THE EMPIRE

*135 AD*



## Sweet, salty and spicy

Nowadays, the rich Romans enjoy their food. Expensive and exotic food, along with a villa, is an obvious way of showing off your wealth to others.

We are particularly fond of sauces as they give the cook the opportunity to make a dish seem a little bit more exciting .

One particular favorite sauce is the exquisite “*garum*”, which is well known in the East and West part of the Empire. It is made with fish waste and salty water. This mixture has to be stored for several weeks until it is ready to consume. It is a very salty and highly flavored sauce.

Sauces prepared with vinegar, honey, pepper, herbs and spices, are also popular.

Some people consider that our food is very sweet. But some others think the opposite!! But one thing for sure all Roman people agree with is that we prepare the most tasty drink : the “*mulsum*” , a mixture of boiled wine and honey.

What about the plebeians taste? The diet of the Roman plebeians is radically different from the diet of the upper class. Their foods consist mainly of wheat or barley, olive oil, some fish and homegrown vegetables. If they are lucky enough and can afford a cow or a chicken they sometimes have milk, cheese and eggs. An interesting fact about this simple food is that the our great emperor Augustus usually preferred these simple meals than the ones that the upper class had!

[Pick the date]