The Official Newsletter of the Society of Ancient Military Historians

http://arkaion-bellum.com



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Contents:

President's Message - Page 1 Publications Now Available - Page 2 Secretary Notes - Page 2 Warfare in Antiquity conference report - Page 3 The Arab Spring and Blue Shield - Pages 4-5 Books Available for Review - Page 6 Book Review Info - Page 6 Events and Academic CFP - Page 6-7 Membership Form - Page 8

President's Message

Greetings everyone. It has been a busy few months since the release of our first issue of the newsletter in June. We have been hard at work on our research and lining up more news and features. Areas of military history into which we are trying to expand are South Asia and East Asia. Our mission statement states that we are interested in the entire ancient world and that includes all of Asia where so much change was occurring and modern research on it is ongoing. We would like to line up a member or members who can keep us current on these fields. Drop us a line if you are interested. In this issue you will find a variety of new items and notices.

There have been a variety of conferences some of which we can report about in the newsletter, including the "Warfare in Antiquity" Conference in Dublin. In September I had the immense pleasure of attending the Reflections on Terrorism conference at Purdue University. Despite it's obvious contemporary interests, there were four papers on terrorism in the ancient Mediterranean. Philip de Souza gave a lively discussion on Piracy and the Roman state, Roberta Stewart talked about "Enemies of Mankind", Tim Howe examined the 'relationship' between Athens and Alexander as an insurgency, and Ricardo Apostol presented a consideration of counter insurgency in Rome. Given the diversity of these talks it was a reminder that ancient historians have often ignored insurgency and terrorism. Much work will no doubt be done in the near future, but these talks pointed out the necessity to be cautious in using definitions and models current in the so-called "war on terror."

There will be military history papers and panels at a number of upcoming conferences including the APA/AIA and the AHA in January, CAMWS in March, the AAH, the CAC, and the SMH in May. Several panels that have been proposed to the Society for Military History conference have been endorsed by the SAMH. We will announce in the next newsletter those that have been accepted. Look for more announcements and calls for papers in the pages of this newsletter and on our website. If you know of an upcoming conference or event definitely let us know – write to the secretary.

In addition to conferences publication in ancient military history continues strong. I am pleased to say that sales of the PAAH volume #10 Recent Directions in the Military History of the Ancient World continue steadily and it is still available. This book, covering recent work in Ancient Near Eastern, Greek, Roman, and Late Antique military history, is a much-needed resource for anyone interested in what is going on in the field. If you need a copy or wish to adopt it for a class then please contact Regina books directly. We are considering the possibility of publishing in several years an expanded second edition that would include chapters on ancient East Asia and South-Central Asia as well as Egypt and Persia. If you would be interested in having or using in a class such a volume do let us know.

The PAAH volume is not our only book news. We are adding a section of the newsletter to announce new books and substantial research articles that have come to our attention. If you have a book or article coming out on ancient military history then let us know. We will continue to post calls for papers and contributors so if you have a book or encyclopedia project underway and you want to seek more contributors just send the secretary your announcement and we can post it in the newsletter and on the website.

We are also adding a new book review section. Beginning with this issue, we have a "Books Received" notice so that those qualified members who wish to write a book review may do so. Interested members and nonmembers may write in, state their qualifications for writing such a review, and request a particular book. We will post these notices on a regular basis depending on how many books we have to review. Also, if you have published a book related to ancient military history and would like to have it reviewed then ask your publisher to send it to the book review editor (address in the newsletter) and we'll include it in our next "Books Received" notice.

We are excited to have this issue out with all of its news and new sections. Keep in mind that we are always seeking contributors as well as news items. We expect that in future there will be three issues each year, late Jan./Feb., June and Oct. Join us in actively supporting the study of military history, warfare, and related topics in the entire ancient world. It will take the efforts of many people to get the organization and this newsletter back to optimal effectiveness. Do not be shy – we want your announcements, news, and upcoming events. Spread the word that we are back on deck.

Thank you, Lee L. Brice President, SAMH



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Notes from the Secretary

The Society has continued to see growth in membership since June, now over 300 spread throughout the world. We are happy to acknowledge a number of leading scholars from around the world and look forward to continued growth in the coming new year. I am personally grateful for the notes of support, and hope that *RM* and the *SAMH* can continue to be a useful tool for those interested in ancient warfare.

If you are organizing a conference, know of a conference of interest, please forward this information to myself to be included on our website as well as the next issue of Res Militares. We are also grateful for conference organizers Peter Myler and Kevin de Groote, UC Dublin, for providing us with a report on their recent conference. I am also grateful to Dr. Friedrich T. Schipper, (Blue Shield Austria), for his informative report on the activities of Blue Shield's efforts to help raise awareness in protecting the many archaeological sites located in areas of active conflict.

If you have news regarding recently published works related to aspects of ancient warfare, conferences, historical reenactments, or other research projects related to ancient warfare, please contact me directly so that we may include that information in future issues of *Res Militares*.

We are especially grateful to those who have donated funds to assist in our operating costs, namely the printing of the newsletters. We hope that suggestions will continue to come in, so that the society will be better able to bring together scholars and the community who have interests in the study of warfare in the ancient world.

Thank you, Dan Powers

Publications NOW AVAILABLE

Publications of the Association of Ancient Historians #10

paperback 222 p. \$20.00 USD ISBN 978-1-930053-70-0

Recent Directions in the Military History of the Ancient World

Produced with collaboration between the Society of Ancient Military Historians and the Association of Ancient Historians. *Co-Edited by Lee L. Brice and Jennifer T. Roberts*

TO ORDER CONTACT:

REGINA BOOKS

P. O. Box 280 Claremont, CA 91711 (909) 624-8466

Ralph D. Sawyer, *Ancient Chinese Warfare*. New York: Basic Books, 2011. p. 554. ISBN 978-0-465-02145-1 \$26.39

The history of China is a history of warfare. Rarely in its 3,000-year existence has the country not been beset by war, rebellion, or raids. Warfare was a primary source of innovation, social evolution, and material progress in the Legendary Era, Hsia dynasty, and Shang dynasty--indeed, war was the force that formed the first cohesive Chinese empire, setting China on a trajectory of state building and aggressive activity that continues to this day.

In Ancient Chinese Warfare, a preeminent expert on Chinese military history uses recently recovered documents and archaeological findings to construct a comprehensive guide to the developing technologies, strategies, and logistics of ancient Chinese militarism. The result is a definitive look at the tools and methods that won wars and shaped culture in ancient China.

Order Through: Amazon.com



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Kevin de
Groote, Nick
Secunda, Hans
van Wees, Jon
Coulston,
Philip de Souza
and Peter
Myler in the
UCD Classical
Museum.

Warfare in Antiquity: Approaches and Controversies August 12-13th 2011 University College Dublin

August saw delegates from across the world converging on UCD for the conference: Warfare in Antiquity: Approaches and Controversies. The conference provided a much-needed environment for scholars working on various areas of Ancient Warfare studies to voice their opinions and receive feedback from a well informed audience.

The initial response to the call for papers was excellent and less than half of those who submitted abstracts could be accommodated in the allotted time. The caliber of papers was extremely high, but in the end twenty-four excellent papers were presented over the two days. A diverse variety of topics were covered by the speakers and subjects ranged significantly in time frame and geographical location.

The conference was truly interdisciplinary with speakers tackling subjects such as Classics, Ancient History, Archaeology and Engineering and Medicine in the Ancient World. Attendees were fortunate enough to handle high quality replica arms and armor during some presentations; from shards of Bronze-Age Irish Halberds, to several variations on the Egyptian Kopesh.

The keynote panel consisted of Jon Coulston (St. Andrews), Philip de Souza (UCD), Nick Secunda (Gdansk), and Hans Van Wees (UCL). Each of the renowned speakers dealt with how we should approach the study of Ancient Warfare. Their combined expertise covered a variety of subject areas and the following lengthy discussion was extremely thought provoking.

The weekend was brought to a close with a wine reception in the UCD Classical Museum; during which there was much discussion of the many papers presented over the weekend.

Overall the conference was a great success and has provided much food for thought on how we should approach the study of Ancient History and the many controversial subjects it offers. I would like to thank those who helped in so many ways over the weekend and in the run up to conference and all the speakers and attendees.

Peter W Myler



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The Arab Spring and Blue Shield (Protecting Archaeological Sites in Conflict Zones)

by Friedrich T. Schipper (Blue Shield Austria)

Especially since the end of the Cold War history has demonstrated that, despite international conventions and public awareness, cultural property is increasingly becoming a target of high priority in armed conflicts and the cultural cleansing of whole regions one of the prime goals of warfare. Therefore, the scientific community was filled with concern about the state of the cultural heritage when the countries of North Africa and the Middle East were gripped by the socalled Arab Spring. Such conflicts often form the context for the looting of cultural property and many contradicting messages were reported regarding looting and vandalism in the various countries affected by the Arab Spring, especially in Egypt and Libya. The illicit trade in looted cultural property is one of the most profitable branches of international organized crime and it adds - as increasing evidence suggests – to the war chests of international terror organizations. This makes the targeting and looting of cultural property in the context of armed conflicts and the illicit trade in cultural property a matter of international security, in particular when it takes place in such countries as Libya which for decades has been closely affiliated with international terrorism.

Today the international UNESCO-affiliated NGO-network of the Blue Shield embraces the challenge and responsibility to take action when the fate of cultural heritage is at stake in the event of armed conflict or natural disaster. Its agenda is based on international humanitarian law, namely the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, done in 1954 at The Hague, NL, and its two Protocols (also done at The Hague, the first one in 1954 and the second in 1999). The Hague Convention of 1954 and its First Protocol were drafted against the backdrop of the experiences of World War II when damage to cultural property was mainly the result of collateral damage. Since then, conflict scenarios have changed dramatically, and in 1999 the Second Protocol was drafted partly against the backdrop of the wars of the first decade after the end of the Cold War. Concerning the Arab Spring it can be stated that most countries of North Africa and the Middle East have signed at least the original Hague Convention of 1954 and many also one or even both of its Protocols.

Meanwhile, the regular armed forces of many national states have applied procedures to meet the principles and standards of the *Hague Convention of 1954* and both of its protocols. Nevertheless today – and most likely also in the decades to

come – armed conflicts are no longer limited to "classical" conflict in the sense of international humanitarian law: wars fought by regular armed forces of national states. Rather, we increasingly face inter-ethnic and inter-religious armed conflicts fought by irregular forces that are not constrained by the conventions of international law. We also have to deal with long lasting and devastating post-conflict scenarios, situations of political instability and long term military occupation. Even when conflicts are carried out by national states subject to international law, it is an increasing reality that governments deploy private military and security companies in addition to regular armed forces. All of these developments have contributed significantly to the dramatic loss of cultural property since the end of World War II, which, according to UN estimates, is almost 50 % of all cultural property. Faced with such dramatic changes in warfare and the incredible loss of cultural property, research and action is needed to mitigate further damage and loss.

In consequence, the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) was founded in 1996 in Paris, comprising the representatives of the five international non-governmental organizations working in this field:

- the International Council on Archives (www.ica.org),
- the International Council of Museums (www.icom.museum).
- the International Council on Monuments and Sites (www.icomos.org),
- the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (www.ifla.org)
- the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (www.ccaaa.org).

The mission of the ICBS is to work for the protection of the world's cultural heritage by coordinating preparations to meet and respond to emergency situations. Its objectives are:

- to facilitate international responses to threats or emergencies threatening cultural property
- to encourage safeguarding and respect for cultural property especially by promoting risk preparedness
- to train experts at national and regional level to prevent, control and recover from disasters
- to act in an advisory capacity for the protection of endangered heritage
- to consult and co-operate with other bodies including UNESCO, ANCBS, ICRC and many others

The vital work of the ICBS was recognized in the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, agreed in April 1999



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by 84 countries. This gives ICBS a new role, to advise the inter-governmental Committee for Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

National Blue Shield Committees have been founded in a number of countries, but none of them in the countries of North Africa or the Middle East! National Blue Shield Committees bring together the different professions, local and national government, the emergency services and the armed forces. They provide a forum for them to improve emergency preparedness by sharing experiences and exchanging information. They provide a focus for raising national awareness of the threats to cultural heritage. They promote the ratification and implementation by national governments of the 1954 Hague Convention.

The Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS), founded in December 2008 in The Hague, is coordinating and strengthening international efforts to protect cultural property at risk of destruction in armed conflicts or natural disasters. It is encouraging and facilitating the establishment of national Blue Shield committees worldwide. It currently acts under an Austrian president, Karl Habsburg (www.ancbs.org).

When the first reports on the later so-called Arab Spring were released the state of the cultural heritage soon became an issue, not just within the scientific community but also in the media which have obviously become sensitive to this topic since the looting of the Iraq Museum in the spring of 2003. As there were many contradicting messages regarding looting and vandalism - less about Tunisia, but more about Egypt ant then also about Libya - Blue Shield officials of ANCBS felt it as an urgent need to conduct fact finding missions, especially to those sites that were supposedly affected by criminal acts, in order to document the situation, to state damages and to encourage the parties involved to offer further efforts in protecting the invaluable cultural heritage of Egypt and Libya. Both missions were well received not just by the scientific community but also - and this is as important – by the competent authorities in Egypt and Libya. In return, officials and scholars in both countries became interested in the concept of Blue Shield and ties have been established between both of these countries and the ANCBS.

Dr. Friedrich T. Schipper, (Blue Shield Austria)

Evangelisch-Theologischen Fakultät der Universität Wien http://www.blueshield.at/ http://www.kulturgueterschutz.at/ http://www.archaeologyinconflict.org/

The 55th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference

Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market Omaha, Nebraska March 1-3, 2012

The "theme" for this year's conference will be:

THE TIDES OF WAR:

Navies, Privateers & Pirates,

aggression on the seas from antiquity to the present

Our guest speaker for the Friday luncheon will be Philip De Souza, Dept. of Classics, University of College Dublin. Dr. De Souza plans to speak on piracy, and has authored or edited multiple books and articles, including *Piracy in the Graeco-Roman World* (1999), *Seafaring and Civilization: Maritime Perspectives on World History* (2001), and *The Ancient World at War: a global history*, ed., (2008). His CV can be found: http://www.ucd.ie/classics/staff/drphilipdesouza/home/ (While an ancient historian, Dr. De Souza has done research on piracy in many eras, and his talk won't be limited to antiquity.)

Paper and panel proposals *IN ALL AREAS of history* are welcome. These areas include ancient history, European history, Asian history, history of the Americas, African history, women's history, political history, social and cultural history, military history, religious history, etc.

We *especially encourage* papers related to the theme, but please note that this is not limited to navies, pirates or warfare on the water. Related areas might include ports and port cities, emporia (ancient and modern), as well as sea- or river-borne trade (legal and illegal).

Proposals consisting of an explanatory abstract and a one-page vita should be sent to:

Dr. Jeanne Reames, MVHC Program Chair Department of History University of Nebraska at Omaha 6001 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68182-0213

Or by email: mvhc.coordinator@gmail.com

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2011





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Books available for Review

The following books are available for review this month (those with an asterisk are available; those that appear with strike-outs are already assigned to reviewers). Qualified volunteers should indicate their interest by sending a message to ll-brice@wiu.edu, with their last name and requested author in the subject line. They should state their qualifications (both in the sense of degrees held and in the sense of experience in the field concerned) and explain any previous relationship with the author. Volunteers are expected to have received their PhD and will submit reviews within 120 days. Those still writing their thesis should contact their supervisors to ascertain that a review is appropriate at this time.

*Meier, Christian. A Culture of Freedom. Ancient Greece and the Origins of Europe. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. 302 p., \$29.95, ISBN 9780199747405.

*Nordling, John G. Religion and Resistance in Early Judaism, Greek readings in 1 Maccabees and Josephus. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing, 2011. 358 p., \$34.99, ISBN 9780758626677

*Pitassi, Michael. The Navies of Rome. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2009. 338 p., \$34.95 ISBN 9781843836001.

*Pitassi, Michael. Roman Warships. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2011. 186 p., \$90.00 ISBN 9781843836100.

To have books reviewed send review copies to:

The Society of Ancient Military Historians c/o Lee L. Brice, President History Dept. Western Illinois University MG 434 1 University Circle Macomb, IL 61455

Please indicate the following details: Date of availability and contact email or address

Upcoming Events

CALCHAS, 9-10 Feb. 2012, UC Berkeley

The History of Art Department at UC Berkeley will sponsor a small conference on Feb 9-10 whose theme may be "Caligula: 2000 years of insanity, and what have we learned?" Interested scholars are invited to submit an abstract of under 500 words to describe their papers of 15-20 minutes in length. We invite topics on Caligula (of course), Greek or Roman History, Greek or Roman Art and/or Archeology, Classical Literature, and miscellany. We may accept one or two panels of 3-4 papers, but our program will be rather small, with fewer than 20 speakers. For information please contact Gaius Stern mailto:gaius@berkeley.edu with CALCHAS in the subject line.





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Association	Date	Location	Information
AIA/APA Joint Annual	January 5-8, 2012	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	www.archaeological.org
Meeting			www.apaclassics.org
Classical Association of the	March 9-10, 2012	Salem, Oregon	www.historyforkids.org/CAPN/capn.htm
Pacific Northwest			
Classical Association of Mid	March 28-31, 2012	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	www.camws.org
West and South			
Classical Association	April 11-14, 2012	Exeter, UK	www.classicalassociation.org
Association of Ancient	May 3-6, 2012	Durham, North Carolina	www.associationofancienthistorians.org
Historians			
Society of Military History	May 10-13, 2012	Arlington, Virginia	www.smh-hq.org

Upcoming Academic Conference Call For Papers

XXII International Limes Congress 2012 – Bulgaria – Roman Empire Frontiers

http://www.limes2012.naim.bg

PRESENTATION, PAPERS AND SUMMARIES

The following sessions are envisaged: Fortifications, Units and Arms, Civil Settlements, Roads and Trade, Burial Rites and Religion, Barbarians, Interdisciplinary Researches, Presenting the Roman Frontiers, Varia

Delegates are asked to send summaries of no more 250 words to limes2012@naim.bg, indicating for which session it is intended. Summaries should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Congress, which are English, German and French. The time allowed for each paper will be 15 minutes (PowerPoint presentation), followed by 5 minutes for questions. Summaries of papers can be accepted until 28th February 2012.

Delegates are encouraged to bring materials for the poster session. Please submit titles to mailto:limes2012@naim.bg by 28th February 2012.

To have your event or news included in the next issue of *Res Militares*, please contact Dan Powers mailto:dan.powers@utah.edu with details. If you have any suggestions, or feedback on this issue of Res Militares, please send it to Dan Powers.

JOIN THE SAMH!

Membership in the society is open to anyone anywhere in the world interested in supporting our mission. Dues are the same whether you are renewing or wish to join for the first time. Benefits of membership currently include receiving the newsletter early, either electronically via email or in the mail, and supporting the study of military history, warfare, and related topics of the ancient world. Watch for more benefits in the future.

For those who wish to renew or become a new member and receive the newsletter via email dues are currently \$0, with the option of paying full dues. Anyone wishing to join and receive the newsletter via mail anywhere in the world will need to pay the full \$5 annual dues to cover postal expenses. Of course, we accept donations to cover our web expenses and keep advertising off the webpage. Please send your name, address, professional affiliation if you have any and email to the president's address below. Be sure to indicate whether you wish to receive the newsletter electronically or by mail. Dues and donations can be paid in check or money-order made out to the "Society of Ancient Military Historians" in US dollars.



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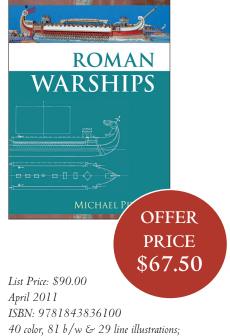
ROMAN WARSHIPS

MICHAEL PITASSI

The Roman Imperial Navy was the most powerful maritime force ever to have existed, prior to the European naval development of relatively recent centuries. It was able to deploy huge fleets and dominate the seas around western Europe, north Africa, and the Middle East, as well as the great rivers that formed a large part of the eastern boundary of the Roman world. It secured the trade routes and maintained the communications that allowed the Roman Empire to exist. It brought previously untouchable and unreachable enemies to battle and enabled the expansion of Imperial power into areas thought hitherto inaccessible. At the height of its power the Roman Navy employed tens of thousands of sailors, marines and craftsmen, who manned and maintained a fleet of warships far larger than anything in existence today. And yet these warships, the very tools that allowed the Roman Navy to dominate the seas, have remained largely unstudied.

Drawing upon archaeological evidence, documentary accounts and visual representations, this book seeks to chart the development and evolution of the Roman warship over eight centuries of naval activity, showing how ships were evolved to meet the circumstances of the different areas in which they had to operate, the different functions they needed to fulfill, and the changing nature of their enemies.

MIKE PITASSI is an independent scholar.



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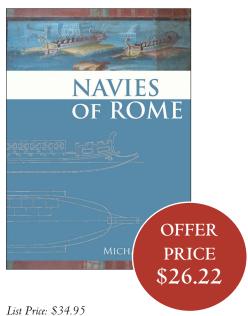
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THE NAVIES OF ROME

MICHAEL PITASSI

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This publication represents the first true examination of the Roman Navy as an independent arm of the military. Though many may perceive the Roman Empire as a primarily land-based organisation, an empire forged by the formidable legions of infantry, the truth is that it was as much a maritime empire as that of the British in the nineteenth century, and in fact the Roman Navy was the most powerful maritime force ever to have existed. It secured the trade routes and maintained the communications that allowed the Roman Empire to exist; and it brought previously untouchable and unreachable enemies to battle and enabled the expansion of Imperial power into areas thought hitherto inaccessible. This book, featuring detailed reconstructions of the ships themselves, provides an engaging survey of the craft, their crewmen, and the navy's major contribution to the Empire's growth.



List Price: \$34.95 ISBN: 9781843836001 10 color & 24 line illustrations; 384 pp., paper

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