

ARMATURAE

EGO-VIDEO

LIBELLVS

GLADIATORVM

While there were at least 20 types of

gladiators, varying in armature and

fighting techniques, there are only a

few types which can be identified with

certainly. The most significant

difference was the kind of shield—that

is, whether it was a heavy shield

(*scutum*) or a light shield (*parma*).

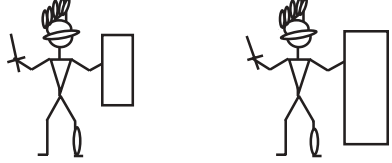
Hence fans could be grouped in two categories: *scutarii* or *parmararii*.

SAMNITE

- large oblong shield (*scutum*)
- short sword (*gladius*) or lance (*hasta*)
- greave on left leg (*ocrea*)
- sleeve on right arm (*manica*)
- plumed, visored helmet (*galea*)
- gladiator of the Republic; gave way to *hoplomachus*, *secutor* and *myrmillo*

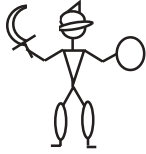
HOPLOMACHVS

- abnormally large shield (*scutum*)
- short sword (*gladius*)
- greave on left leg (*ocrea*)
- sleeve on right arm (*manica*)
- plumed, visored helmet (*galea*)



THRACIAN

- small square or round buckler/shield (*parma*)
- curved scimitar/dagger (*sica*)
- two extended greaves (*ocreae*)
- sleeve (*manica*)
- helmet (*galea*)
- leather bands around legs and thighs (*fasciae*)
- red loincloth (*subligaculum*) supported by belt (*balteus*)
- usually fought *hoplomachus* or *myrmillo*



SECUTOR

- spherical helmet (*galea*)
- greave on left leg (*ocrea*)
- large rectangular shield (*scutum*) or oval shield
- sword (*gladius*) or dagger (*pugio*)
- belt (*balteus*)
- helmet (*galea*)
- mainly fought *retiarium*

MYRMILLO

- helmet crowned with fish
- bare body (no bands)
- Greek style sword
- large shield (*scutum*)
- fought *Thracian* and *retiarium*



PHRASES HEARD AT THE ARENA

Ave, Imperator, morituri te salutant!

Hail, Emperor, those who are

about to die salute you!

Verbera! Strike!

Ure! Burn him!

Habet! Hoc Habet! He's had it!

Mitte! Send him out!

Iugula! Cut his throat!

(seen) *pollice verso*—thumbs down

(finish him off)

KEEPING SCORE

Based on graffiti outside of Pompeii,

gladiatorial matches could and were

recorded, winner paired with loser,

with an abbreviated formula: name, a

number (indicating number of victo-

ries), a backwards C and another

number (indicating number of

wreaths), and a V (for *vicit*, he won) or

an M for (*missus est*, he was sent out).

Other letters found include T for *trio*,

SC for *seceva*, and L for *liber*.

HILARVS XIV C XXIII M

Hilarus: 14 victories (*victoriarum*), 13

wreaths (*coronarum*), sent out (*missus est*)

M ATTLIVS TV

Marcus Attilius: novice (*trio*), he won (*vicit*)

ALBANVS SC L XXV

Albanus: left-hander (*seceva*), free

(*liber*); 19 victories (*victoriarum*), he

won (*vicit*)

TERMS

corona: wreath awarded to a victorious

gladiator after an exceptional fight

doctor: trainer in weapon use

editor: financed, organized and

presided over the games

gladiators nati: (freeborn) robbers,

murderers and incendiaries who

had earned death in the arena

(*b*) *arena*: sand; hence *arena*

lanista: proprietor of a school of

gladiators

liber: indicates fighter is of free status

and not slave

lanista: wooden wand used for training;

lanista gladiatorum: gladiator training

school

referee: presented to a

gladiator when freed from service

seceva: left-handed fighter

vinculatio: fight to the death

trio: novice gladiator

RETIARIVS

- net (*rete*)
- trident (*fuscina*) & dagger (*pugio*)
- left shoulder piece (*galerus*)
- headband
- belt (*balteus*)
- leg and ankle bands (*fasciae*)
- often fought from a dais (*catasta*)

OTHER GLADIATORS

- *essedarii*: fought from chariot
- *equites*: fought with lances
- *dimachaeri*: used two swords
- *laquearii*: fought with a lasso
- *anabates*: couldn't see out!
- women fought without helmets



Auguet, Ronald. *Cruelty & Civilization*.
 Carcopino, Jerome. *Daily Life in Ancient Rome*.
 Coleman, Kathleen. "Graffiti for Beginners."
Classical Outlook, Vol. 76, No. 2.
 Dalladay, Roger. *Life and Death in the Arena*. (slides)
 Grant, Michael. *Gladiators*.
 © GINNY LINDZEY, 1999