

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*).

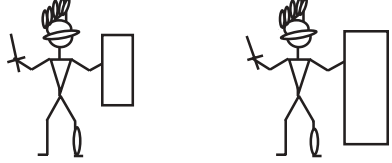
Hence fans could be grouped in two categories: *scutarii* or *parmararii*.

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*

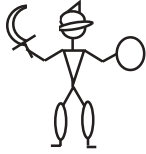
HOPLOMACHVS

- 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 *retiararius*

MYRMILLO

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



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)

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*.
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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 victories), a backwards C and another number (indicating number of wreaths), and a V (for *vicit*, he won) or an M for (*inimicus est*, he was sent out). Other letters found include T for *trio*, SC for *ocrea*, and L for *liber*.

HILARVS XIV C XXIII M
Hilarus: 14 victories (*victoriae*), 13 wreaths (*coronam*), sent out (*inimicus est*)
M ATTILIVS T V
Marcus Attilius: novice (*trio*), he won (*vicit*)
ALBANVS SC L XIX V
Albanus: left-hander (*ocrea*), free (*liber*); 19 victories (*victoriae*), he won (*vicit*)

TERMS

corona: wreath awarded to a victorious gladiator after an exceptional fight
doctor: trainer in weapon use and financed, organized and presided over the games
gladiators nevidiani: (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: proprietor of a school of gladiators
lanista: wooden wand used for training; or referee; presented to a gladiator when freed from service
ocrea: 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

