

The Ancient Graffiti Project

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Featured Graffiti: Warm-Up Activities

Gladiators

The following graffiti are found at: <http://ancientgraffiti.org/Graffiti/themes/Gladiators>

AGP-EDR140188

VIII K(alendas) Martias
Numisii Genialis
gladiatorum paria X
Herculani

Eight days before the Kalends of March
sponsored by Numisius Genialis
10 pairs of gladiators (will compete)
in Herculaneum.

- What day is the “eight days before the Kalends of March”?
- Why is it important to mention who sponsored the games?

AGP-EDR173125

((:duo gladiatores pugnantes))

(A sketch of two gladiators fighting has these labels...)

M. Atillius t(iro) v(icit)

Marcus Attilius, a novice – WON!

Hilarus Ner(onianus) XIV) XIII
m(issus est)

Hilarus, gladiator from the imperial training school,
with 14 wins and 13 trophies - LOST

(N.B. Hilarus was sent out of the arena (*missus*)
defeated- but not killed.)

- What type of gladiators are fighting one another based on the drawing?
- What is a novice? Why is it surprising that Marcus Attilius won?
- Why do you think Hilarus was spared death?

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AGP-EDR143900

((:gladiator, murmillio galea et scuto armatus) (Drawing of a murmillio type gladiator.)

- Describe the armor and weapons of this gladiator.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of this equipment?

AGP-EDR167858

((:duo gladiatores pugnantes)) (Drawing of a gladiator match)

- Describe the weapons and armor of each gladiator.
- Which type of gladiators do you think they are?

AGP-EDR175482

Suspirium puellarum

TR

Celadus Oct(avii) III) III

The girls' heartthrob!

The Thracian (gladiator)

Celadus, of Octavius – 3 wins, 3 trophies

- Celadus was mentioned more than once as a heartthrob in graffiti. Can you think of any modern athletes that might be admired like this?
- With what type of weapons and armor was a Thracian gladiator equipped?
- Who was Octavius, in relation to Celadus?

See **Featured Graffiti for more topics: <http://ancientgraffiti.org/Graffiti/featured-graffiti>