



AD SIGNUM!

THE NEWSLETTER OF LEGIO IX HISPANA

Volume VI-Nr. II, April. 2023

Speaks He... the Prefect

by Gaius Vorenus
Prefect Legio IX

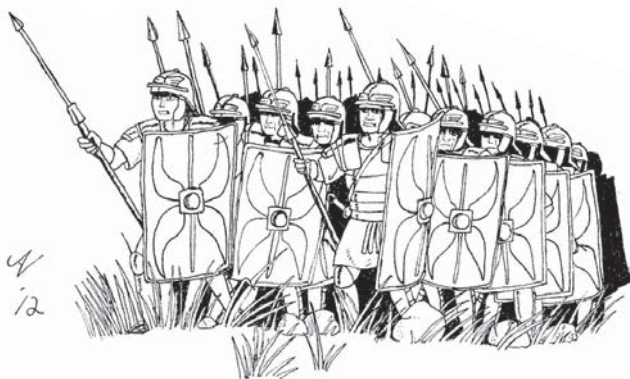


As of this time, the Prefectus is still under the effects of his sun cure. We are sure he will be writing an epistle sooner, rather than later. It is know that emmersion events and "Needlefelt" combat is close to his heart.

Ad Victorium,

GAIUS VORENUS

Prefect
COHORS III
CENTURIA CASSIUS MARTIALIS



BRITONS YOUR COUNTRY



NEEDS YOU

S · P · Q · R



Legio IX Commandments

- I. Thou shall not engage in actions that harm or embarrass the unit, bring shame to the unit, or let the unit down.
 - II. Thou shall respect the rules and wishes of the planners and organizers of all events in which you participate as a member of Legio IX.
 - III. Thou shall not appear in modern garb, or visible modern items, at a Legio IX event, encampment, or presentation after the official start time of said event.
 - IV. Thou shall learn all other Legio IX members' ROMAN names and use them.
 - V. Thou shall not publicly degrade other units or their members in a public setting or forum.
 - VI. As a member of Legio IX, you shall always help other Roman reenactors in need if you are able to do so.
- At events where you are representing Legio IX to the public, you shall use the utmost discretion when discussing anything modern in front of the public. For example, when asked about where to buy, or how to make, our kit, you can respond on the modern topic, but lengthy discussions on what sort of modern undergarments you are disguising under your tunic shall be forbidden.

Roman Holidays in this Month:

The Romans celebrated many different holidays, just like we do. The festivals of ancient Rome included many customs which have been carried over into later holidays. The main significance of ancient Rome in relation to modern holidays is that many of these customs still continue today. These were on the old Roman calendar. (The names of the holidays are hyperlinked to *Wiki* pages about them)

Aprilis

- A major *feriae conceptivae* in April was the Latin Festival.
- 1 (Kalends): **Veneralia** in honour of Venus
- 4–10: **Ludi Megalenses** or **Megalesia**, in honor of the Magna Mater or Cybele, whose temple was dedicated April 10, 191 BC
- 5: Anniversary of the Temple of Fortuna Publica
- 12–19: **Cerialia** or **Ludi Cereri**, festival and games for Ceres, established by 202 BC
- 13 (Ides): anniversary of the Temple of Jupiter Victor
- 15: **Fordicidia**, offering of a pregnant cow to Tellus ("Earth")
- 21: **Parilia**, rustic festival in honour of Pales, and the dies natalis of Rome
- 23: The first of two wine festivals (*Vinalia*), the **Vinalia Priora** for the previous year's wine, held originally for Jupiter and later Venus
- 25: **Robigalia**, an agricultural festival involving dog sacrifice
- 27 (28 in the Julian calendar) to May 1: **Ludi Florales** in honour of Flora, extended to May 3 under the Empire



Ramblings from Atop the Soapbox...

by D.M VARIANvS
Signifer Legio IX



Well, you knew we couldn't keep up with a newsletter every month. We're still trying and we need your help. You don't have to write perfect articles, just write. Review books. If you buy clothing or gear, review it.

Next up, a timeline event: **Across the Centuries 2023** at Fort Loudoun, located near Fort Loudon PA... It's the weekend of 19-21 May. I can tell you, it's a good, laid-back event. We try and recruit. I know, we say this all the time. Recruiting is hard. Harder yet without someone to "fight"... When we ask for **your** input, we mean it.

Our Signum

To the right is a virtual mockup of a new unit signum I am having made. Read the article in the January issue and see **why** it needs to be finely-made and not like most reenactor versions (cheap or crudely-made). The real signum were considered to be deities - ours needs to be so also. I'm selling WWI and WW2 things to pay for it. Silver and metal parts cost lots of *denarii* and you get what you pay for. By the way, due to manufacturing problems (business closing due his supplier's getting hosed), it will be Cohort II, instead of III and have one less disc. All good. Like we care what Cohort we are. Certainly, I have spoken to Rob and Paul about this. If you have a good reason to object, let me know.

Other stuff

Our good Prefectus (who could normally help outfit new members) has been under the kind ministrations of the healers. He was, for months, being daily showered with *radiis solis* and was in much pain



New Legio IX Signum
First look.. I need to remove one of the round phalare and change the plaque to Coh. II, yes, there's a story there.



during his trials – he is still often tired from this mighty *curatio*. He assures me that he will be ready for the May event at Fort Loudon, Pa. You could help him regain his strength by sending him your good wishes and salutations.

Celts!?

I'm tired of talking about this – however, there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. We shall see how it all goes. **I hope others can help.** In fact, I ask again that you **DO** help in getting this going. I started a Facebook group for them, but don't know how that will go.

Events

Sure would be nice to do more than a couple of public events. Even if I can't breathe (stay tuned for info on that)... We had talked about renting Fort Loudon. Perhaps we can do an immersion event as our Prefectus has mentioned. It isn't hard to do and has minimal costs involved. Event insurance coverage is a priority for the group to have in the event that any unforeseen mishaps may occur.

A Thanks

I must thank Mikus Tapoli Lusitanus for his article on Roman Taxes. We need more articles to make this newsletter informative and entertaining for our esteemed readers. .

Ad terminus, est victoriam!

J. M. UARIANUS

Administrator, Legio IX

PS: Citizens, please don't get all puffy and hyperventilate if something DOESN'T happen like we post here, it'll not be the end of the world, but we're sure gonna try to get these things done!!! Your help is always welcome.



Lacing your Lorica Segmentata like *they* did and not like an Internet Dork

by D. Mercativs Varianvs
Legio IX Hispana

When you look online, go to other events or see videos on YouTube, you see goobers with their Segs laced wrong. Is it a big deal? No, you're not fighting in real combat. However, ***in the real world***, the Seg was laced with, not one long lace, like a shoe-string, but instead with individual laces **per each row of loops**. Why, asketh you? Because, if you have one long lace and a barbarian slices it with his sword, your seg will then come loose and the panels will begin to separate.

And, if the seg is not simply falling off, it will get in your way and hinder your ability to continue effectively fighting. .



Correct way to lace your seg >>>>

It's a small detail for sure, but one that will allow you (and others of knowledge) to spot a neophyte.

Sure, the right way actually looks a little messier but who cares? Right is right, wrong is wrong. In a world of farbs, be right. You are wearing an authentically recreated Lorica Segmentata, not, a pair of Nike brand running shoes. Play your historical role and look the part of a proud Roman Legionaire!

<<<< Wrong way to lace your seg





ON ROMAN TAXES

by Mikvs Tapoli Lvsitanvs

Legio IX Hispana

April 15, the day of taxes... All those sesterces going to the government for government things... The average American pays anywhere from 10% to 37% in federal taxes alone. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, your federal taxes officially go to paying for everything from Social Security and Medicare to military equipment, highway maintenance, education, etc. So as I sign that page two and look at line 24, I wonder, how does today's out of control tax and spending, compare to those under our glorious emperors of the first century?

A Soldier's Pay

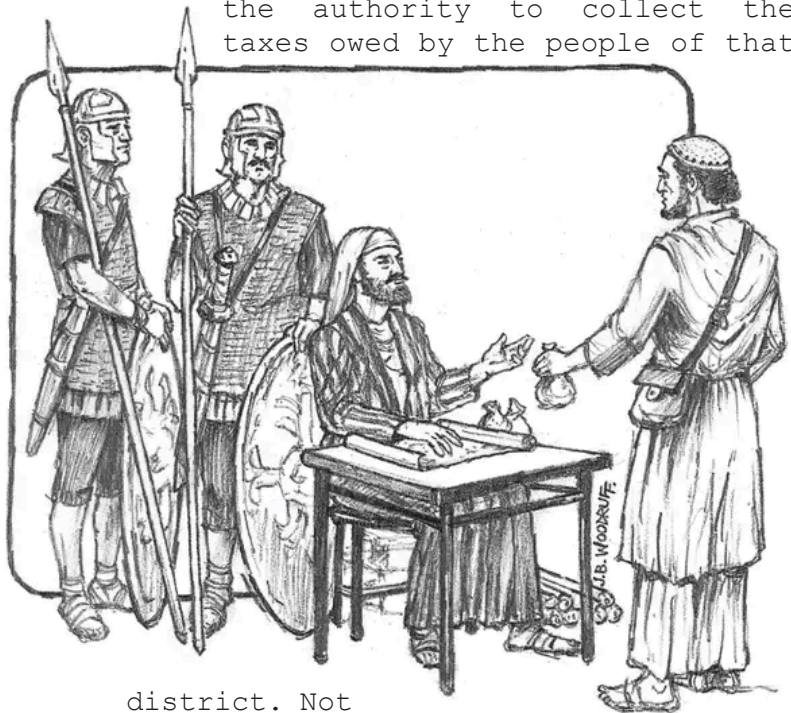
In the early first century, the "average" roman soldier was paid 900 sesterces per year. That number is, of course, a very unrealistic amount as soldiers were paid wildly different depending on their function. Our mighty centurio made much, much more. To put it into perspective, a sesterce around that time would buy you about four beers.

Types of Taxes

Taxes and tax collection in Rome was very different. Today, there are several types of taxes that we are familiar with; income, sales, property and sometimes duty (if you are spending big bucks on European imported armor...) Fed income tax takes 10-37%, state tax 9-13%, sales 4-7%, property tax 0.5-1%, duty 2%, are the average numbers if you are morbidly curious. That translates to take half your money and hand it over.

So how does that match up in ancient

Rome? Like us, they had a number of different taxes that went to fund the military, public works, trade routes and the mail. Collection of taxes was significantly different back then as it was a privatized industry. Every couple of years, the government would auction off tax collection precincts, areas and districts to local collectors called *publicani* that would then have the authority to collect the taxes owed by the people of that



district. Not terribly efficient and sounds down right prone to corruption even compared to today.

For the majority of young conscripts, the only real tax that they would be subjected to while in the legion would be that "lovely" sales tax. In fact, this would probably be the only tax that most people of the empire ever had to deal with. Land owners, business owners, persons of higher social standing had additional types of taxes to pay versus the standard sales tax paid by all classes of Romans. Under Augustus, imperial sales tax was 1%. Later emperors graciously lowered it to 0.5%.



Those of us lucky to reach retirement age and get our land were deemed lucky enough to end up being subjected to the other taxes.

The Poll tax, or *Tributum capitis*, was the primary tax imposed on all of the peoples of the provinces of Rome. This is why the census was always so important. The tax was paid by every subject of the empire that was not a citizen residing on the Italian peninsula. Even later when Roman citizenship was expanded, you still had to pay this tax if you did not live in Italy proper. Early on, this actually only covered Rome.

The *Tributum soli* was the land tax. You didn't think that your free land grant was truly free, did you? The dream of your own farmable land in the heart of the empire would be quite the accomplishment. There was a reason many wanted land under the senatorial provinces of the Italian peninsula. Most of that land would be largely exempt from the *Tributum soli*. No, for you good legionary, we have fine track of rock-filled land in Britannia with some Pict neighbors that might be a little jealous of your new acquisition. For your efforts to grow a couple of turnips, the *pulbican* will be around to collect your contributions every so often (or about every 4 years).

More Taxes

Also relevant to your newly retired life, you may experience the trade tax. Making goods or selling services? There was a tax for that of around 2.5%. It is not exactly an income tax, but it does sort of resemble it. Doctors, teachers and farmers were exempt. Another type of trade tax was the duty or customs tax. This was also about 2.5% and applied to items coming into or out of the province. Remember all those days up on the wall to the north chasing down those Picts trying to sneak

past the gates with goods to sell?

Got slaves? We have a tax for that! The general tax markup on slaves ran about 4%. There was also additional custom taxes on slaves if you wanted to be exotic and import some from out of the area. Finally, if you were feeling particularly generous or fond of your slaves and wanted to free them, you had to pay the *Viceima Libertatis* tax of about 5% to make it happen.

Your wealthy, long lost uncle died and left you in his will? Romans did have inheritance tax of about 5%. This did not apply to close relations however.

Even More Taxes

Other taxes that could get you or your loved ones included the marriage tax. This one is a misnomer. You would get hit with the *aes unorium* if you were an unmarried adult. Got to make sure you provide replacement population! Curiously, there was a military tax on maidens, widows and orphans. They had to pay a special tax to fund the mounted troops' horses. After all, they are benefiting from the strong military protections provided by the legions.

Got to say, it seems taxes in ancient Rome were substantially less and went a long way more than they do today. Roman roads and buildings are still here. I can't even get the pothole down the street filled with my larger contributions today!





Guidelines for Submission of Material to Ad Signum

We encourage, in fact, absolutely need, contributions of material to this publication if it is to continue. This includes, but is not limited to, articles, letters, fiction writing, practical tips, reports on events, historical research, original or duplicated art work and photographs. Just about anything to do with the Roman Army, The Roman Empire, and its enemies and allies and/or the Ancient World can be used (try to go light on Greek stuff).

The editing, design, layout and pre-press production of *Ad Signum* is done by Decimvs and now sometimes, Josephus. We have been using desktop publishing software since the olden days (right after Caesar died), in this case both PC and Mac platforms Adobe InDesign and Photoshop, MS Word is used for much of the editing and Adobe Illustrator and CorelDraw are the primary applications used to produce this publication. This allows for a lot of different options in submitting material.

The following is a list of our submission guidelines and policies. These will give you an idea of how to best prepare stuff before you send it, and what will happen to it after we get it.

Written Material

General: It is the policy of *Ad Signum* to proofread all articles or letters and edit them for length, accuracy, grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity and taste where necessary. We appreciate receiving material that is as finished as possible, however, do not worry about getting everything perfect—just get it done, and we will take care of the polishing! If you are concerned that our editing might affect something important or sensitive, we will be glad

to e-mail you a proof galley of your article if requested.

Electronic Format

The following are the preferred media and software for the transferal of articles written with word processing, in order of preference:

1. In M.S. Word: **doc** or **docx** format
2. In any other software
3. An e-mail with formatting.
4. Text files written in notepad or wordpad or whatever app you use on your phone.
5. In any other software that we can import or access.

Articles may be E-mailed to us, through one of our emails listed.

Paper Format

The following is the preferred format for articles submitted on paper (in order of preference):

1. Typed, double-spaced using upper and lower case style (not all capital letters)
2. Neatly hand printed.
3. Cuneiform writing on clay tablets.
4. Written in legible handwriting

Artwork

Photocopies of line drawings will work fine. Pen and ink (with black ink) drawings work best; pencil sketches don't reproduce as well. Artwork will be returned on request.

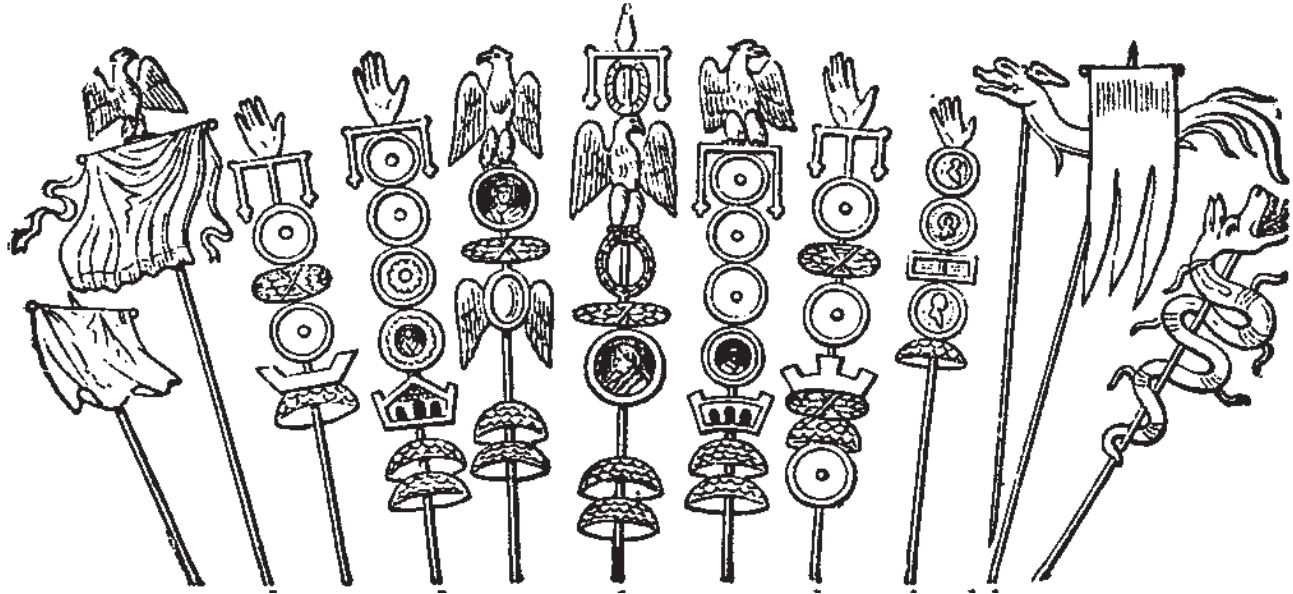
Photographs

Preferably something scanned and/or from a digital camera (or where you stole it on the 'Net). We prefer NOT to get photos that we have to scan, but will do it **if** we have to, but you'll likely be cleaning the latrines or peeling fava beans next week.



Upcoming Events

- May 20-21, 2023: **Across the Centuries 2023** at Fort Loudoun, located in Fort Loudon, PA
- September 2-3, 2023: **Virginia Scottish Games:** Great Meadow, The Plains, Va
- *More to come...*



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The Fine Print...

AD SIGNUM! is the Official Newsletter of **Legio IX Hispana**. *Ad Signum* is (supposed to be) published monthly (but rarely is). Please submit any articles you'd like published to the editor, Marsh Wise at dmvlegix@gmail.com (sorry, electronic format only), as text file or M.S. Word document or really, most electronic format.

The Legio IX website is: <https://www.legioix.org/>