



The Roman Triumph

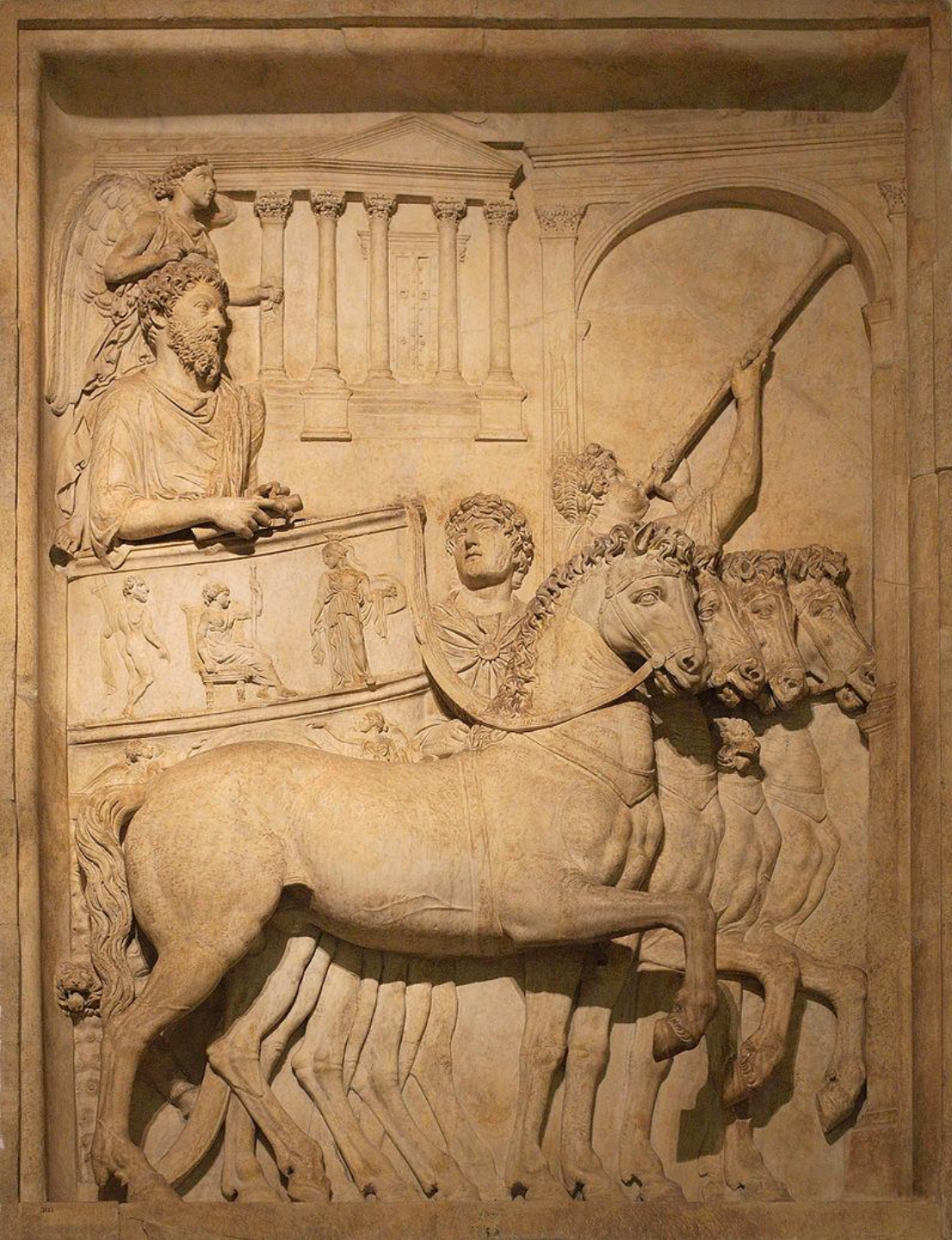
HPAH5044/6044 – ARMIES AND NAVIES

Aims

- ▶ Explore military aspects of the Roman triumph.
 - ▶ Equipment.
 - ▶ Captives.
- ▶ Cinematic depiction of a procession.

The Triumph

- ▶ Parade through city symbolising military success.
- ▶ Traditionally awarded to victorious commander upon return to Rome.
- ▶ Revolves around very public display of military prowess.
- ▶ Generally includes:
 - ▶ Soldiers.
 - ▶ Captured prisoners and spoils of war.
 - ▶ Animals.
 - ▶ Reconstructions of battle scenes.



Display of Captured Equipment

- ▶ Tend to come first in the order of procession.
- ▶ *Spolia, arma, tela* (spoils, arms, weapons).
- ▶ E.g. Livy 23.14.3-4:
 - ▶ ‘...[Marcus Junius Pera] made proclamation, that of such persons as had been guilty of capital crimes or were in prison on judgment for debt, those who would serve as soldiers with him, he would order to be released from their liability to punishment and their debts. [4] These six thousand he armed with the Gallic spoils which were carried in the procession at the triumph of Caius Flaminius.’
- ▶ Cf. Livy 34.52 - procession of Flaminius

Display of Captured Equipment

- ▶ Plu., *Flam.*, 14.1: 194 BCE
- ▶ 'Greek helmets and Macedonian bucklers and pikes'.
- ▶ Plu., *Aem.*, 30.1: 167 BCE
- ▶ '...[Aemilius Paulus] crossed into Italy with his forces, and sailed up the river Tiber on the royal galley, which had sixteen banks of oars and was richly adorned with captured arms and cloths of scarlet and purple, so that the Romans actually came in throngs from out the city, as it were to some spectacle of triumphant progress whose pleasures they were enjoying in advance, and followed along the banks as the splashing oars sent the ship slowly up the stream.'

Display of Captured Equipment

- ▶ Plu., Aem., 30.2 (cont.): 167 BCE
- ▶ '[2] But the soldiers, who had cast longing eyes upon the royal treasures, since they had not got as much as they thought they deserved, were secretly enraged on this account and bitterly disposed towards Aemilius, while openly they accused him of having been harsh and imperious in his command of them; they were therefore not very ready to second his eager desires for a triumph.'

Display of Captured Equipment

- ▶ Military standards.
- ▶ Enemy Chariots.
- ▶ Siege Engines.
- ▶ Ships/rams.
- ▶ Money.



Display of Captives

- ▶ The procession of Perseus: Plu., *Aem.*
- ▶ 33.3: 'These were followed by the chariot of Perseus, which bore his arms, and his diadem lying upon his arms.'
- ▶ 34.1: 'Perseus, clad in a dark robe and wearing the high boots of his country, but the magnitude of his evils made him resemble one who is utterly dumbfounded and bewildered.'

Pompey's Triumph, 61 BCE

- ▶ Pompey celebrated huge triumph on his return from Eastern Mediterranean.
- ▶ Described by Appian, *The Mithridatic Wars*. 116-117 and Plutarch, *Pompey*. 45.
- ▶ App., *Mith.* 116: '[The triumph] occupied two successive days, and many peoples were represented in the procession, from Pontus, Armenia, Cappodocia, Cilicia, all the peoples of Syria, Albanians, Heniochi, Achaeans, Scythians, and eastern Iberians.'

Pompey's Triumph, 61 BCE

- ▶ Procession of Prisoners:
- ▶ App., *Mith.* 116: 'arrayed in their native costumes'.
- ▶ Focus on royalty as anthropomorphising defeated states.
- ▶ Includes women, such as Mithridates' daughters and female rulers of the 'Scythians' (in Appian).

Display of a Procession

- ▶ 'Cleopatra's Entry into Rome', *Cleopatra*, 1963. Dir. J. L. Mankiewicz.
- ▶ [Cleopatra \(1963 \) Elizabeth Taylor Entrance into Rome Scene \(HD\) - YouTube](#)
- ▶ Cf. Cassius Dio 43.19.2-4 (the procession of Arsinoë) and Cassius Dio 51.21.7-9 (Augustus' Egyptian Triumph).



Commemoration of Triumphs

- ▶ *Fasti Triumphales*:
- ▶ List of commanders awarded a triumph placed in forum.
- ▶ States who, with their father and grandfather, and where they campaigned.
- ▶ Set up during Augustus' principate.
- ▶ Link: [Fasti Triumphales : Roman Triumphs \(attalus.org\)](http://attalus.org).





Questions?

Reading

- ▶ Beard, M. 2007, *The Roman Triumph*. London – Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- ▶ Östenberg, I. 2009, *Staging the World: Spoils, Captives, and Representations in the Roman Triumphal Procession*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.