



**GLADIATORES
BEROLINENSES**

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION



1. CHRONOLOGY



CHRONOLOGIC OVERVIEW OVER EXISTING
GLADIATOR TYPES



1. OVERVIEW

HELLENISTIC

ITALO-CELTIC

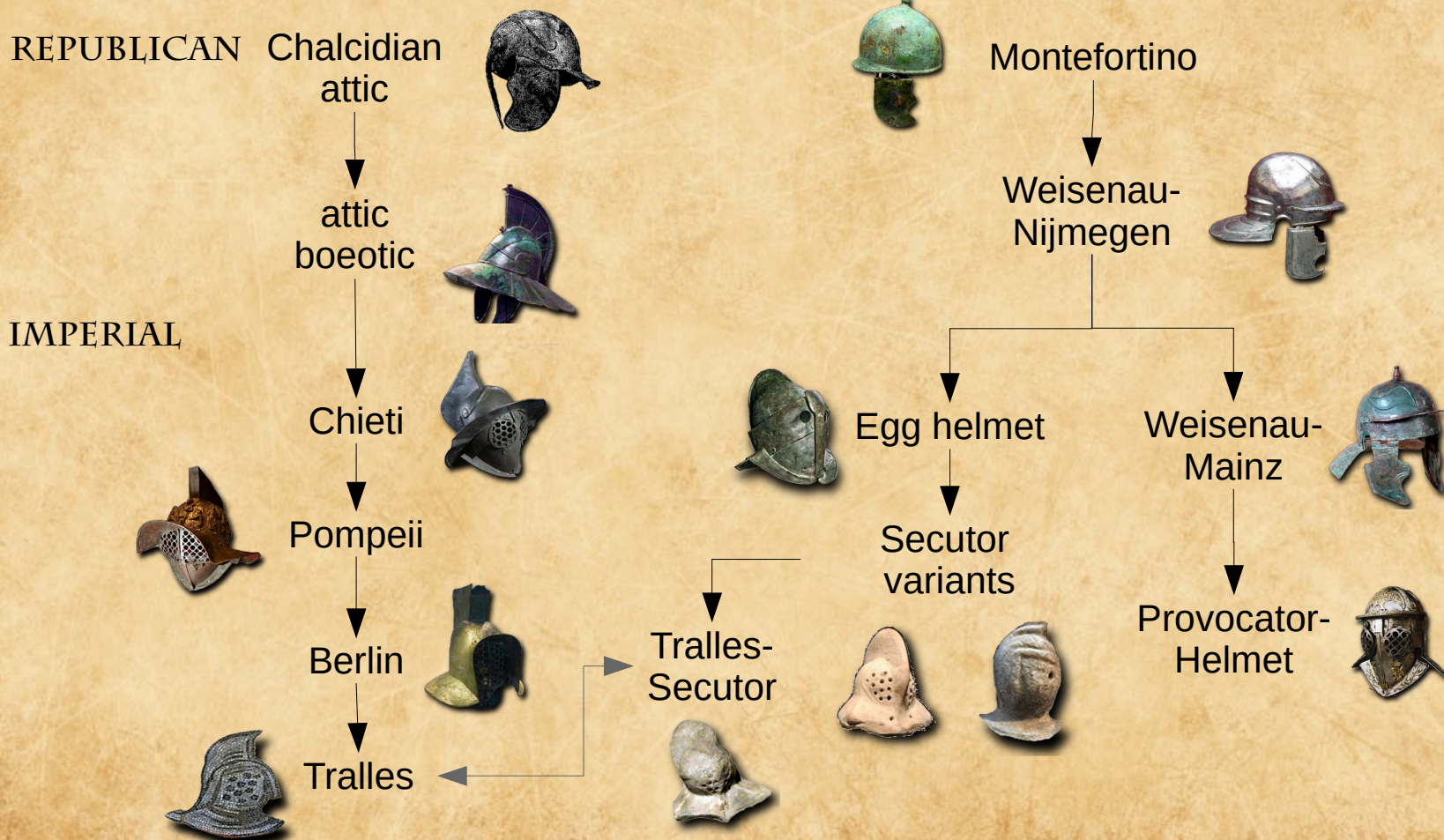




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2. REPUBLICAN HELMETS

2. REPUBLICAN HELMETS



Terminology: „republican helmets“ describes all helmet types created during the time of the Roman republic. They were still used until 50 CE, past the end of the republic.

Since embossing was easier to do with bronze, most gladiator helmets were made out of it even though the Roman military used iron helmets. In addition, bronze was considered the more valuable and decorative material.

During the republican times gladiator helmets and legionary helmets were very similar in design.



2.1. HELLENISTIC STYLE

CHALCIDIAN-ATTIC



DECORATIVE HELMET,
BRONZE
POMPEII, ITALY
CA. 5TH-4TH CEN. BCE

CHALCIDIAN-ATTIC-
PHRYGIAN



BRONZE HELMET
GREECE
4TH CEN. BCE

Chalcidian-attic helmets are the earliest proven helmet design for gladiators. They were popular in the military during the 4th century BCE as well. They represent a local improvement of hellenistic helmets of that time.



2.1. HELLENISTIC STYLE



ATTIC HELMET
ORIGIN UNKNOWN
2ND-3RD CEN. BCE



BOEOTIC HELMET
TIGRIS, TILLE, TURKEY
4TH CEN. BCE



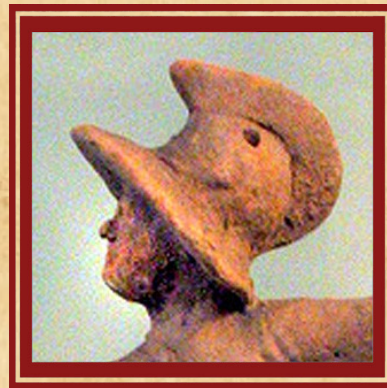
ATTIC-BOEOTIC
SOUTHERN ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE

The attic helmet provides the basic design with its cheek pieces, crest and curls, as well as the boeotic helmet with its broad brim, which was already mentioned by Xenophon in the 5th century BCE as a cavalry helmet. The attic-boeotic hybrid form was developed until the 1st cen. BCE.

2.1. HELLENISTISCHER STIL



ALTAR OF DOMITIUS
AHENOBARBUS
ROME, ITALY
120 BCE



CLAY FIGURE
TARENT, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE



BRONZE HELMET
SOUTHERN
ITALY
CA. 1ST CEN BCE



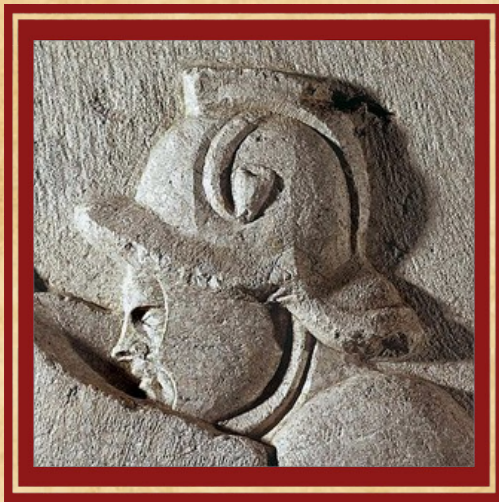
BRONZE HELMET
SOUTHERN
ITALY
CA. 1ST CEN BCE

During the late republican era the attic-boeotian helmet was worn by gladiators as well as military personnel (left image). Hellenistic helmets were deemed to be prettier than Weisenau helmets, according to Professor M. Junkelmann.

Larger crests, brims and more elaborate decorations were added to the design until the end of the republican era



2.1. MURMILLO



RELIEF
BENEVENT, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE – 1ST CEN. CE



MURMILLO
TIBER RELIEF, ROME
1ST CEN. BCE



CLAY LAMP
ORIGIN UNKNOWN
DATE UNKNOWN

The helmet design was originally strongly influenced by the attic design. It lost the curls and received a more prominent crest at the end of the republican era. Because of this the early similarity to provocator helmets disappeared.



2.1. THRAEX



RELIEF
ORIGIN UNKNOWN
CA. 1ST CEN. BCE



CLAY LAMP
ORIGIN
UNKNOWN
CA. 1ST CEN. BCE



RELIEF
VILLA GIULIA
ROME, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE

The recognizable crest shape developed from typical thracian/phrygian military helmets with their pulled-up crest. The helmet represents a combination of hellenistic helmet design and phrygian crest design.



2.1. HOPILOMACHUS



RELIEF
ROME, ITALY
2ND CEN. BCE



CLAY FLASK
ORIGIN UNKNOWN
2ND CEN. BCE



RELIEF
VILLA GIULIA
ROME, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE

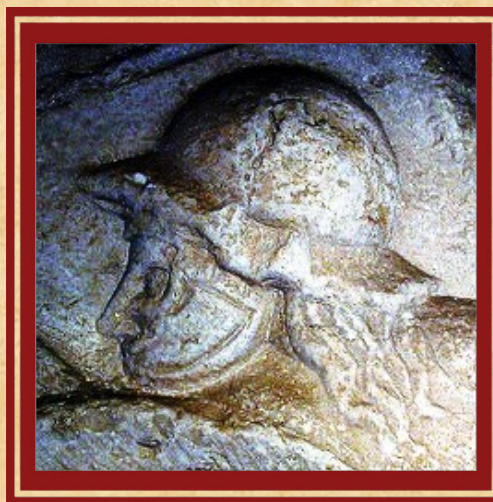
The helmet design kept a rather small crest based on the attic-boeotian design but had no curls. The brim first increased in size with the development of the proto-chieti helmet.



2.1. EQUES



RELIEF, MUNICH,
GER, AMY
1ST CEN. BCE



RELIEF, TIBER
ROME, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE



CLAY LAMP
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
DATE UNKNOWN

Equites used an attic-boeotic helmet, sometimes with attic curls, but always without a crest. In the late republican era the brim became flatter and broader until it ultimately lead to the chieti helmet type.

2.1. PROTO-RETIARIUS



CUP OF CHRYSIPPUS
LYON, FRANCE
30 BCE

In one of the very early development stages the retiarius seems to have worn an open-faced helmet. The depiction suggests an attic-boeotic helmet.

Since only a single visual source exists precise conclusions are not possible.



2.2. ITALO-CELTIC STYLE

MONTEFORTINO



BENACCI NECROPOLIS
BOLOGNA, ITALY
4TH - 3RD CEN. BCE

WEISENAU- NIJMEGEN



ORIGIN UNKNOWN
1ST CEN. BCE - 1ST CEN. CE

During the 4th to 1st century BCE the Roman legion uses the Montefortino helmet which was based on a Celtic design. In Augustinian times the more advanced Weisenau helmet was introduced and often used for gladiators as well. The use of iron helmets for gladiators can be proven from this time on.



2.2. ESSEDARIUS



RELIEF, VILLA GIULIA
ROME, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE



RELIEF,
DYRRHACHIUM
ALBANIA
CA. 0 CE



RELIEF
BOLOGNA ITALY
EARLY 1ST CEN. CE

The Esседarius helmet kept its simple design during the whole time it was used. It has no crest or curls.



2.2. PROVOCATOR



RELIEF, ISERNIA
ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE



RELIEF, TIBER
ROME, ITALY
END OF 1ST CEN. BCE

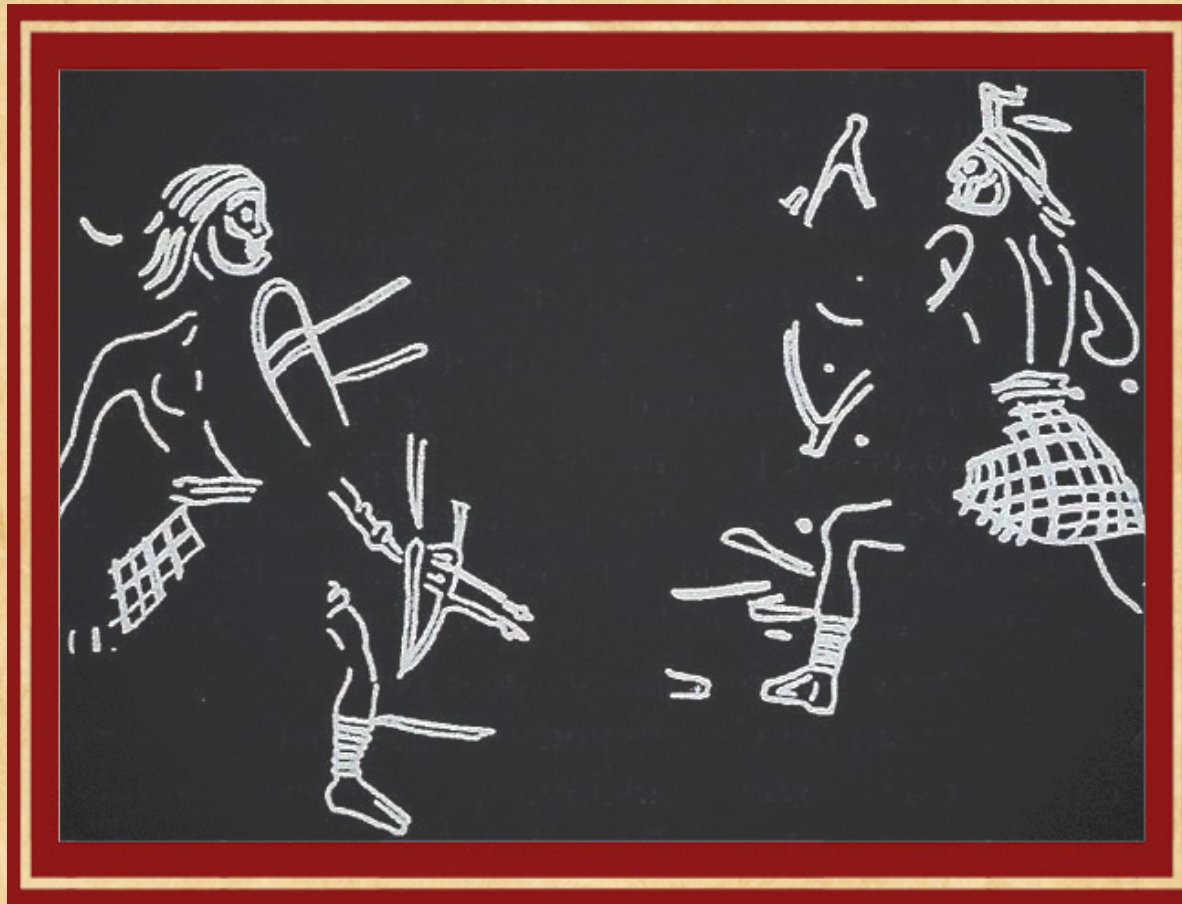


RELIEF
DYRRHACHIUM
ALBANIA
CA. 0 CE.

The reinforcing brow element was introduced around the 1st century CE for legionaries as well as gladiators.



2.2. SAGITTARIUS



CUP OF CHRYSIPPUS, LYON, FRANCE, 30 BCE

Helmets of the Weisenau type seem to get used in the depiction above. Since only a single visual source exists of republican Sagittarii precise conclusions are not possible.



2. REPUBLICAN HELMETS

SUMMARY

Overall the design and allocation of helmets to distinct gladiator types does not seem to have been strictly regulated during the republican era.

During the 1st century BCE provocators, for example, wore helmets with attic-boeotian design elements as well as Weisenau helmets.

After the end of the Roman republic open-face helmets were still in use. During the 1st century CE they were replaced completely by imperial helmet types.



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3. IMPERIAL HELMETS

3. IMPERIAL HELMETS



With the Augustian reforms not only did the gladiatura turn into a strictly regulated sport, the equipment became more professional as well. Until the end of the 1st cen. CE five distinct helm archetypes were developed. Their basic design changed little during the following centuries.



3.1. PROTO-CHIETI



RELIEF
ISERNIA, ITALY
1ST CEN. BCE – 1ST CEN. CE



RELIEF PORTA STABIA
POMPEII, ITALY
20-30 CE



CHIETI-RELIEF
ROME, ITALY
80 CE

Gradual enlargement of the cheek pieces culminated in a closed visor mask. Ca. 30 CE the closed helmet generally replaced all open-faced helmets. Thus the basic design of the Chieti helmet, which was independent from military helmet types, was thus established. The eye holes acquired grated visors during the 1st century CE.



3.2. HELLENISTIC STYLE

Three distinct ,classic' variants were developed:

Chieti type (first half 1st cen. CE)

Introduction of the closed face mask, open eye holes initially, later grated visors, broad brim around the whole helmet

Pompeii type (late half 1st cen. CE)

Grated visor over the entire face, lowered brim arching upwards above the face

Berlin type (from ca. 150 CE)

The brim is lowered to shoulder height, the design allows for lower material thickness and therefore a larger armoured surface while maintaining the same stability as its predecessors

In general gladiator helmets were more massive and protective than legionary helmets since they only needed to be worn for the short duration of the fight.



3.2. HELLENISTIC STYLE

	CHIETI	POMPEII	BERLIN
MURMILLO			
THRAEX			
HOPLO-MACHUS			No known sources

Not enough evidence has been found for a clear classification of the origin of the Tralles type.



3.2. MURMILLO

CHIETI



RELIEF
APOLLORI FIORI
ALBANA
1ST CEN. CE

POMPEII



POMPEII
ITALY
1ST CEN. CE

BERLIN



ORIGIN
UNKNOWN
2ND CEN. CE

TRALLES



MOSAIC
VILLA BORGHESE
ROM, ITALIEN
4TH CEN. CE

All variants were used in parallel.

The Tralles type was developed in the Eastern Roman Empire and was primarily used there.



3.2. THRAEX

CHIETI



POMPEII
ITALY
1ST CEN. CE

POMPEII



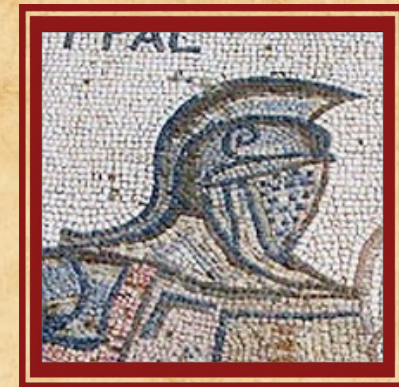
POMPEII
ITALY
1ST CEN. CE

BERLIN



MOSAİK, REIMS
FRANCE
1ST-4TH CEN. CE

TRALLES



MOSAİK, KOURION
CYPRUS
3RD CEN. CE

All variants were used in parallel.

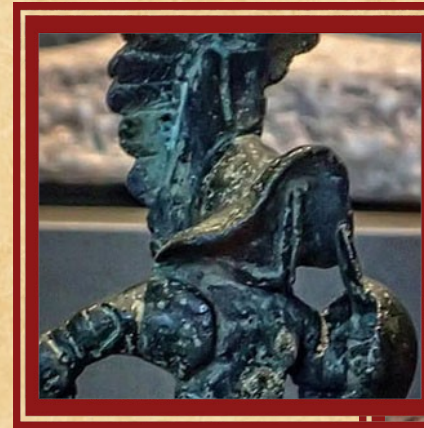
The Tralles type was developed in the Eastern Roman Empire and was primarily used there.



3.2. HOPLOMACHUS



CHIETI



POMPEII

RELIEF,
PORTA STABIA
ROME, ITALY
20-30 CE



MODERN REPLICA

BRONZE FIGURE
ORIGIN
UNKOWN
2ND CEN. CE



CLAY LAMP
LYON, FRANCE
DATE UNKOWN

Due to the needed freedom of movement of the right arm the hoplomachus used almost exclusively the Chieti type helmet. No Tralles or Berlin helmets are known for the hoplomachus.



3.2. EQUES



RELIEF,
AMPHITHEATRE
MERIDA, SPAIN
8 BCE



MOSAIC, ZLITEN
LYBIA
2ND CEN. CE



MOSAIC, MADRID
SPAIN
3RD-4TH CEN. CE



MODERN
REPLICA

The Chieti type added the face mask and grated eye visors, but no crest. No further development after the introduction of the Chieti type helmet is known.



3.2. DIMACHAERUS



RELIEF
HIERAPOLIS, TURKEY
3RD CEN. CE

The helm equals the Chieti helmet of the equites.

Since the helmet design is only known from a single depiction no detailed conclusions can be drawn.



3.3. ITALO-CELTIC STYLE

WEISENAU-MAINZ



BRONZE HELMET
AQUINCUM, HUNGARY
1ST CEN. CE

NIEDERBIEBER



BRONZE HELMET
NIEDERBIEBER, GERMANY
2ND - 3RD CEN. CE

The Niederbieber subtype was introduced into the roman legion in the 2nd to 3rd century CE. The design of the italo-celtic gladiator helmets is still roughly based on legionary helmets.

3.3. PROVOCATOR



POMPEII
ITALY
1ST CEN. CE



MODERN REPLICA



RELIEF,
EPHESOS
TURKEY
2ND-3RD CEN. CE



RELIEF, EPHESOS
TURKEY, 3RD CEN. CE

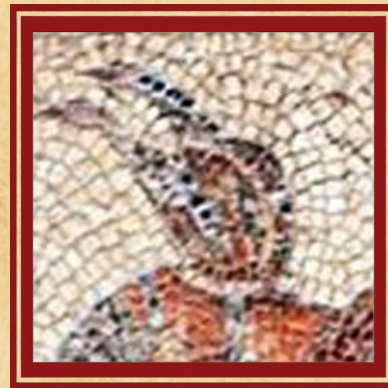
Based on the Weisenau type helmet. The large grated visor was introduced around the 2nd century CE. The helmets follow the Niederbieber design by lowering the calotte at the rear.



3.3. ESSEDARIUS



RELIEF, PATRAS
GREECE
1ST-2ND CEN. CE



MOSAIC, ZLITEN
LYBIA
2ND CEN. CE



RELIEF,
MAASTRICHT
NETHERLANDS
2ND/3RD CEN. CE



MODERN REPLICA

Introduction of the Chieti helmet ca. 50 CE; parallel development of the egg-shaped helmet. The latter replaces the open-faced and the Chieti helmet completely in the 2nd century CE. No further developments are known. The egg-shaped helmet is undecorated and more massive than other helmets since essedarii fought with slashing swords and throwing spears. In contrast to other helmet designs the open eye holes were never dispensed with.



3.3. SECUTOR



POMPEII
ITALY
1ST CEN. CE



MODERN REPLICA



CLAY FIGURE
ORIGIN
UNKOWN
1ST-2ND CEN. CE



RELIEF, BURDUR
TURKEY
2ND-3RD CEN. CE

Based on the essedarius helmet. Introduction of the large grated visor and the crest reaching down to the chin in the 2nd century CE. Secutor helmets were the only helmets which were regularly forged out of iron.



3.3. SECUTOR



GRAVE STELE
TRALLES,
TURKEY
3RD CEN. CE



GRAVE STELE,
TRALLES
TURKEY, 3RD CEN. CE



RELIEF
VIA ARENULA
ROME, ITALY
4TH CEN. CE



MOSAIC, VILLA BORGHESE
ROME, ITALY
4TH CEN. CE

Eastern Roman helmet developments

Left: Tralles type with jagged, low brim

Right: Plain helmet form, possibly made up of two different materials



3.3. SCISSOR/ARBELAS



RELIEF,
HALICARNASSOS
TURKEY
1ST-2ND CEN. CE



RELIEF, HIERAPOLIS
TURKEY, 3RD CEN. CE



GRAVE RELIEF
ORIGIN
UNKOWN
2ND-3RD CEN. CE



RELIEF, TOMIS
2ND-3RD CEN. CE

A Chieti-like helmet was used against other scissores and the secutor helmet with large visor against retiarii. No evidence is known for the common reenactment display of the secutor helmet with open eye holes.



3.3. SAGITTARIUS



RELIEF, FLORENCE, ITALY
CA. 31 BCE TO 14 CE



RELIEF, FLORENCE, ITALY
CA. 31 BCE TO 14 CE

Depicted is a pointed helmet of unknown origin. Since the shape of the helmet is only depicted in a single source, no detailed conclusions can be drawn.



3.3. RETIARIUS



MOSAIC VILLA NENNIG
GERMANY
230-240 CE



MOSAIC VILLA BORGHESE
ROME, ITALY
4TH CEN. CE

The imperial retiarius wore no helmet. There are no known depictions of either the retiarius fighting with net and galerus or of the „heavy“ retiarius with armored manica and without net.



3. IMPERIAL HELMETS

SUMMARY

The Augustian reforms established the gladiatura as a regulated sport. As the fights lost religious significance, so changed the design of the equipment.

The helmets had reached their distinct form, specifically designed for each gladiator class and its unique fighting style. Gladiators no longer used military helmets, but rather specialized and custom-fit equipment.



**GLADIATORES
BEROLINENSES**

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