



*Inside the Ancient World*

# SLAVERY IN ANCIENT ROME

Michael Massey  
and Paul Mooreland





Inside the  
Ancient World

Series Editor:  
Michael Gunningham

This well-established series presents selected aspects of the ancient world in such a way as to help students gain an understanding of the attitudes of the Greeks and Romans, and to allow them to form their own judgement on the issues raised. Designed to meet the need for material suited to Classical Studies/Classical Civilization courses, it will be found particularly useful by candidates taking examinations in the subjects at sixteen plus (see list inside) or, in certain cases, at a more advanced stage. It is also intended as a helpful ancillary to the study of Greek and Latin at these levels. Much of the information is given by way of translated quotations from ancient authors. The books are illustrated throughout and diagrams and maps are linked closely to the text.

ISBN 1-85399-635-1



9 781853 996351 >

# SLAVERY IN ANCIENT ROME

---

Michael Massey  
and Paul Mooreland

**I**n *Slavery in Ancient Rome* the authors examine many of the crucial questions raised by the study of ancient slavery. What were the sources, in the Roman empire or on its fringes, for slaves? Once brought to Italy, how were they sold? How many were there in relation to the free population and to what extent was Rome dependent on them? Slaves were often highly educated and were valued members of private households and treated almost as family members. Others in mining, manufacture or gladiatorial schools could be brutalised. The attitudes of Roman slave owners varied accordingly. Harsh treatment could lead to disastrous slave revolts, like that of Spartacus. On the other hand slaves could ultimately be given or purchase their freedom and, as freedmen, even rose to high positions in the "civil service" of the Emperors.

**Michael Massey and Paul Moreland** were both practising teachers of classics.



BRISTOL CLASSICAL PRESS

*Inside the Ancient World*

# SLAVERY IN ANCIENT ROME

Michael Massey  
and Paul Moreland



**BRISTOL CLASSICAL PRESS**  
General Editor: Michael Gunningham

SALE \$ 10.00  
RRP ~~\$ 31.00~~  
Slavery in Ancient Rome

Front cover illustration: a slave-collar tag  
(see page 62)

First published in 1978 by  
Macmillan Education Ltd

This edition published in 2001 by  
Bristol Classical Press  
an imprint of  
Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd  
61 Frith Street  
London W1D 3JL

e-mail: [inquiries@duckworth-publishers.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@duckworth-publishers.co.uk)  
Website: [www.ducknet.co.uk](http://www.ducknet.co.uk)

© 1978 by Michael Massey and Paul Moreland

All rights reserved. No part of this publication  
may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or  
transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic,  
mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise,  
without the prior permission of the publisher.

A catalogue record for this book is available  
from the British Library

ISBN 1-85399-635-1

Printed in Great Britain by  
Antony Rowe Ltd, Eastbourne

## *Contents*

<i>Illustrations</i>	4
1 Introduction	5
2 Sources of slaves	8
3 Marketing and numbers	18
4 The treatment of slaves and their occupations	26
5 Attitudes towards slaves	44
6 Revolts	57
7 Freedom and freedmen	64
8 Conclusion	78
<i>Index</i>	80

## Index

- abolition 78  
accommodation 32  
attitudes towards slaves  
44ff, 52ff, 54f
- bailiff (*vilicus*) 29  
barracks (*ergastulum*) 30  
brigandage 12  
British slaves 10  
burial 41, 42
- capture of slaves 9  
careers 46f  
Christianity 78  
Cicero, on slaves 44f, 55  
civil service 73f  
Claudius Etruscus, the  
father of 75f  
clients 70  
conditions of slaves 28,  
33, 36, 40  
crucifixion 60  
cruelty 47, 50
- Delos 13, 15
- farm life 27  
freaks 21  
freedmen 67ff; honours  
for 77; imperial 73ff;  
legislation concerning  
69; occupations 71ff;  
rights 67  
freedom 64ff
- gladiators 34ff
- home-rearing 13, 47  
household duties 39
- imperial slaves 43
- Larcus Macedo 33, 47f  
legislation 26, 56  
*libertus ab epistulis* 76f;  
a *rationibus* 76  
Licinus 74f
- manumission 64ff; formal  
67f; informal 66ff;  
restrictions on 24, 64ff  
marketing 18ff  
marriage 13, 29, 42, 64  
medical treatment 29, 36,  
56  
mines 33f
- names 8, 70  
Narcissus 76  
numbers 22ff
- occupations 39f
- patrons 70  
peasant farmers 7  
*peculium* 32, 40f, 66  
Pedanius Secundus 23, 48  
Pliny the Younger,  
attitudes to slaves 54f;  
on criminals 47f;  
mining 34; *peculium* 41  
piracy 11  
prices 19f  
prisons 31  
public slaves 42  
punishment 17, 50
- revolts 57ff  
rich owners 22  
runaways 60ff
- sales 15  
*Satyricon* 14f, 16, 23, 38f  
Seneca, attitudes to slaves  
52ff; on prisons 31  
*seviri Augustales* 77  
Spartacus 58ff  
suicide 63
- Tacitus, on criminals 48f:  
devotion 55f; town 38;  
villa 26  
technology 79  
Tiro 45, 55
- vicomagistri* 77