

## Instructions for Callistus

As an introduction to conversing and navigating in the VRoma online virtual environment and to "living as a Roman in VRoma," we are going to enact a role-playing scenario. Instead of connecting with your own VRoma character, you are going to connect as a lower-class Roman based on a real person who once lived in the city of Rome, a person known to us now only through one or more inscriptions but once a living, breathing Roman.

The characters have been assigned at random to the members of the class. Your character will be **Callistus** (Marcus Ulpus Callistus), an imperial freedman in charge of the armory of the Ludus Magnus, the great gladiatorial training school in Rome. Connect with the special username and password that your teacher will give to you.

You will enter VRoma in your special location (in this case **Armamentarium** of the Ludus Magnus, which is your character's "home"). Click on the icon for Callistus and read the description carefully, including all the links, one of which will show you the actual inscription on which your character is based. Below the description, you will see that you are carrying a Scroll for Callistus. Click this and read your specific instructions for the game. Others will be able to see and read your description, but not this scroll. Before your class acts out the scenario, you should explore the Armamentarium, Ludus Magnus, and the Colosseum, carefully reading all the links so that you will understand gladiators, their armor, and the nature of combats in the Colosseum. This will prepare you to carry out your tasks (described in your scroll, the text of which is also included below).

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### Scenario:

The *praefectus annonae* has invited you to be part of a group of Romans who will accompany a young woman from the province of Baetica, Coelia Mascellina, on a tour of various locations in Rome. She has recently taken over her mother's business of exporting olive oil and wine from Baetica, and the prefect wants to make sure she enjoys this tour so that he can negotiate a favorable contract with her to supply olive oil for the troops. He is counting on you to introduce her to the part of Rome you know best.

### Your Tasks:

- 1) Reveal your personality to Coelia and the others in the group as you converse and move about the city. You, Callistus, are a burly, grizzled old codger--friendly enough but not willing to put up with any pretensions from anybody. You know your weapons well and the techniques of fighting, but otherwise you have no education. You are gruff and unrefined from years of associating with gladiators, but you have a good sense of humor. You have a bit of a chip on your shoulder about people who claim superiority because of high birth and who look on gladiators with contempt.
- 2) Take the group to the armory of the Ludus Magnus. Ask everyone to start at Rome by using the Quick Jump bookmark or typing **@go Rome**, then click on **Region 3** in the map, and then click **Armamentarium**. Proudly show them the weapons you have kept in such good condition; choose three to show and ask everyone to click on the icon of each weapon in order to see it in the web frame. Then take them to the **Ludus Magnus** and the **Substructures of the Colosseum** (using the named exits) to show them the cells for animals (ask everyone to click on the appropriate link in the description), and then to click on one or two of the animal icons below. Finally, take them up to the **Arena** and ask them to click on "gladiatorial combat." Using the links in this description, explain about the hand signals in the arena--by a gladiator to admit defeat, and by the crowd to ask for the death or reprieve of the defeated gladiator. If there is time you can also show them the *venatio* (by clicking on that icon).