

Instructions for Mus

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 **Mus** (Marcus Gavius Amphion Mus), freedman and secretary to the Praetorian Prefect, who commanded the emperor's Praetorian Guard. 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 **Commander's Quarters** in the Praetorian Camp, which is your character's "home"). Click on the icon for Mus 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 Mus. 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 all sections of the Praetorian Camp, carefully reading all the links so that you will have sufficient information about the Praetorian Guard. Also visit and read about the Cryptoporticus on the Palatine and the *Scalae Gemoniae* (*Gradus Monetae*) in the Forum. This will prepare you to carry out your tasks (described in your scroll, the text of which is also included below).

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, Mus, appear to be as quiet and unobtrusive as your nickname suggests, but your intellect is sharp as whip and you don't miss anything. You don't put yourself forward, but what you do say is shrewd, witty, and to the point. Despite your proximity to those in positions of the greatest power, you are not haughty or boastful.

2) First take the group to the Praetorian Camp. Ask everyone to start at Rome by using the Quick Jump bookmark or typing **@go Rome**, then click on **Region 6** in the map and take the exit to the **Praetorian Camp**. Give the group a tour of the Camp, telling them what links they should click in each description. Be sure to show them the Praetorian equipment in the Barracks. Then take them to the Cryptoporticus on the Palatine (everyone should type **@go Cryptoporticus**) to show them where members of the Guard assassinated Caligula (you don't approve, for he was a legally constituted emperor). Finally, take the group to the Gemonian Steps in the Forum (everyone should type **@go Gradus Monetae**) to describe what happened to Sejanus (you do approve, because he had overstepped and misused his authority as Praetorian Prefect). If there is time, you can also show them the Tarpeian Rock, another famous place of execution.