

Great Magazine Issue for Bronze Age through Middle-Roman Period Gamers

By Bob Stewart

For those who haven't seen it yet, there is a great magazine (available for about \$10 at Borders and other major US chains) called Ancient Warfare (see the website, www.ancient-warfare.com which is quite functional, if a little Spartan) and the magazine is put out by Karwansaray Publishers out of Holland. The current issue on the local stands (that's Vol. IV, issue 4, if you read this later than Nov '10) has a lot of articles to do with the fall of the Bronze Age (and more specifically, battles between Egypt vs. the Sea Peoples). There are 58 pages of lushes color (OK, so there's the usual proportion of ads in there, to pay the rent), with an almost-frameable centerfold spread of a sea battle between Egyptian troops and Sea Peoples. The cardstock for both the cover and the pages is definitely first rate (not that cheap stuff that's printed on recycled Walmart bags, so it can ship at a cheaper rate) and the shipping costs sort of reflect that. A quick overview of the content of the major articles shows:

Original Source material for fall of Bronze Age (The Harris Papyrus)

Mycenaean civilization in Greece

Bronze Age Battle-axes of the Middle East

Mycenaean citadels in Bronze Age Greece

Ramesses III versus the Sea People (main theme article)

Bronze Iliad-period swords

Early Iron Metallurgy

Tactics during Thucydides (Spartan Hoplite) time

Fleets of the Roman Empire (Tiberius & Nero highlight)

And a couple of 1 page reviews (Simon Scarrow's Centurion, Land Battles in 5th Century BC Greece, and a figure review of 28mm Warlord Games Germanics)

The authors seem to know their stuff, and the articles seem to be pitched more toward amateur historians rather than wargamers (although some token wargame figure ads have snuck through). Even the color ads (a number for equipment for re-enactors, like gladiatorial helmets) are of an eye-candy quality. Now, I confess that I usually like to get about 4 to 6 issues off-the-stand before I pop down hard-earned money for a subscription, and this is no exception. However, I think it's time I commit and get my copy mailed, because the stores rarely have more than a few token issues. Published bi-monthly in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, for 33.50 euros, shipping extra (Shipping worldwide is shown on the web site as 6.25 euros, although it is unspecified in the magazine itself). Back issues are also available. You can subscribe on-line at their web site.

As an aside, this is the kind of magazine that whets your enthusiasm, and makes you want to go out and paint scads of little guys, and get right down to Solo Wargaming. The prints have enough detail to encourage you to super-detail your 28mm figures, let alone fielding 15mm by the double-handful. And the technical articles like that on Metallurgy make you appreciate why fewer troops, armed with better weapons, could often swing the outcome of a battle.

You may give up on a LOT of subscriptions when you need to tighten your belt, but (after paying for your yearly *Lone Warrior* subscription, of course), this one is definitely a keeper.