



Entertainment in ancient rome

Roman entertainment The Roman government wanted to keep the idle masses entertained because they knew that a large group of poor people was a major threat to their empire. Therefore, the Romans enjoyed many different forms of entertainment, most of which were free. Theatres were scattered throughout the city and empire. These theaters were large outdoor theaters that could seat up to 7,000. Several plays were performed in the theatres. The events happened at all times throughout the day, although the poor usually went to sleep at night because they could not afford to keep the oil lamps burning. The Coliseum was home to several gladiatorial battles, fights between men and wild animals, christian executions for lions, and was occasionally flooded by a naval battle. The Romans loved blood, and seeing each other to death or being eaten by a wild beast was quite nice. The Coliseum could seat up to 45,000 spectators and, as seen in the modern film Gladiator, the crowd often decided the loser's fate in a battle. The Circus Maximus was another public entertainment center where chariot races were held. A great reproduction of the Circus Maximus is in the film Ben Hur. The Circus was specific to Rome, but could accommodate 250,000 people. Today in Rome, one road runs along one length of the track, while the other is still visible. The Campus was a former soldier drill camp in the city that became a track and field playground. The Campus was a large section of plain near the Tiber River. Young people from all over Rome gathered on campus to participate in sports such as foot racing, jumping, archery, wrestling and boxing. Often, men bathe in the Tiber River after exercising, or retreat to the bathrooms to relax and clean. Men from all over Rome enjoyed riding, fencing, fighting, throwing and swimming. In the country, the men went hunting and fishing, and played ball while at home. throwing a ball as high as you could and catching it before it hit the ground. Women were never involved in these games. Links of everyday life to ancient Rome If you have encountered a spelling mistake, please notify us by selecting this text and pressing Ctrl+Return. This post is also available at: Polish (polski) Mosaic showing gladiators during a wrestling Free food and entertainment always helped win the electorate's approval. Patricians competed with each other so they would provide citizens with a better and more impressive spectacle. It was the desire to please the crowd that led to the development of the Games. The wealthy Romans didn't save coins to create big games to delight people. Apart from gladiatorial struggles, the Romans also loved chariot racing. Thanks to the ability to win votes this some made their careers, while others went bankrupt. But as a political weapon, a good show and a sumptuous party were unbeatable. The rate was high. It was worth spending a fortune to win a public office. The advantages of organizing the games were also noted by the emperors, who used it to lighten the mood of the public in the Empire and wanted to please the crowds. Some of them organized contests because they loved them, like Commodus. The Romans had the great passion for the Olympic Games. They were made at every opportunity. This is how a Roman historian Suetonius describes the games, organized by Julius Caesar: He sponsored shows of various kinds: a gladiatorial contest, plays in all regions of the city, and performed by actors of all languages, as well as circus performances, sports competitions and a seabattle. In a gladiatorial fight at the Forum, Furius Leptinius, a Praetorian family man, and Quintus Calpenus, who had been a senator and legal defender, fought to the end. The children of the princes of Asia and Bithynicia performed a pyrine dance. During the works, the Roman knight Decimus Laberius acted in a mime that he himself had written and, when given five hundred thousand seestacles and a gold ring, left the stage and crossed the orchestra to take his seat in the fourteen rows. For circus area was expanded at both ends, with a wide canal surrounding the circuit. Here the youngest noblers made exhibitions with carts of four horses and two horses and jumping between pairs of horses. Two squadrons, one older and one of the younger boys, performed the Trojan Game. Five days of animal fights were provided. Two battle lines were drawn for the final, with five hundred foot soldiers, twenty elephants and three hundred knights assigned to each side. And for there to be more space for the meeting, the central barriers were removed and two camps were set up instead, one in front of the other. At a temporary stage built in an area of Martius Campus, athletes competed for three days. In the maritime battle, which took place in a lake excavated in minor Codeta, ships with two, three and four oar banks from the Tiria and Egyptian fleets were engaged, manned by a large number of fighters. Attracted by all these shows, a large number of fighters. Attracted by all these shows, a large number of fighters. many people were crushed to death, even including two senators. - Suetonius, Lives of caesars, Julius Caesar desified, 39 During the reign there were more pounds instead of working. Nero put on chariot races over cursed gladiator flexible with his own imagination, ordering to take advantage of camels instead of horses. When he was 20 years old, in 59 AD, he organized games on the occasion of shaving his youthful beard. They were called luvenalia and their tradition lives to this day in the name of the festival. For the Roman people, bread and demanding games (panem et circenses), maritime battles were also organized imitating real events in the water-filled arena or in specially built swimming pools. The following types of shows were distinguished: Gladiatiorial fights against the bloody struggles of people and animals. The tradition of gladiatorial struggles comes from the Eturus custom of worshiping the dead through struggles rather than human sacrifices. (more) Carriage racing Two athletes were competing and trying to get to the site as soon as possible. There were four teams: red, white, green and blue. The spectator who came to the races was dressed in the colors of the favored team. This entertainment was the most popular. (more) Naumachia - staged naval battles Naumachia Staged naval battles shown in specially created pools (sometimes in amphitheatres) or natural lakes. They usually represented the victorious battles of Roman troops. (more) Theatre theatre of ancient Rome was a very diverse and interesting art form. There were several festivals, street theatres, acrobatics and great performances of plautus comedies or the tragedies of Seneca the Younger. (more) Gladiatorial struggle The Romans enjoyed watching fights, initially during the republic were fights between prisoners of war. The games so popular in Rome were organized not only by the rulers, but also by candidates seeking an office to win the support of the Roman people. During the empire, gladiatorial struggles stemmed from the tradition of fighting in the deceased's grave during the funeral ceremony. People wanted the fights organized even on the occasion of the funeral of insignificant people. Organizational records of these events were found in the wills of the people. Special schools were formed for gladiators, who trained them to fight in the areas. Gladiators came mainly from slaves, prisoners of war but also from the free poor, were strongmen practiced in martial art. They were equipped with a sword and a shield, often fighting wild animals. His existence was very uncertain because there could always be a stronger gladiator who could deprive him of life. The audience watching the games decided to give or take the gladiator's life. During the Empire, the games were mainly organized by the emperor who rented the schools Gladiators. All the victories and achievements of the Empire were accompanied by the games. It is difficult to determine exactly where the enormous popularity of struggles in Roman society came. Perhaps this way, the accumulated emotions were ventilated A mosaic representing the gladiatorial struggle. The custom of gladiatorial struggles came from the Etruscans, who in this way worshipped the dead rather than the ancient human sacrifices. At first the games were held in forums and over time moved to large amphitheatres. Initially, they were built of wood, with the time that stone amphitheatres began to emerge. The most famous is the PF Colosseum course, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, built on an eliptic plane. In the center is a sand-filled field of 86 by 54 meters, and around there are rows of seats for 50,000 spectators on four floors equipped with arcades, supported by columns and pillars. The use of arcades on four floors was possible due to the use of concrete. The coliseum is a combination of practicality with decoration. Numerous outings made it possible to leave the amphitheatre quickly, two of them were intended for the emperor. Beneath the sand surface were cages with wild animals, warehouses for scenic decorations and trapdoors. The emperor sat on a special podium, and special places were designated for priests and vestals. For protection against heat or rain, the canvas curtain was stretched. Due to the fact that gladiatorial games enjoyed this popularity, amphitheatres were built in other cities, for example in Verona, Pompeii, but none were as powerful as the Coliseum. The Pompeii Amphitheatre was built around 80 BC,

was intended for 20 000 sites, built in a vacuum and surrounded by an embankment. During the circus ludi, or gladiator games, crowds of people filled the amphitheatre. Gladiators struggling with animals provided a lot of excitement. They were not regular and frequent entertainment, although they could last many days. The games, as were quite expensive, were organized with the aim of gaining popularity or after the wars that were victorious by Rome, especially when the opening of the Colosseum was to end the long mourning caused by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The spectators were the representatives of all states: emperors, vesta priests, senators, equites, commoners and slaves, but not everyone was happy to see them. Carriage race reconstructions at puy du Fou amusement park in Les Epesses (France) attract 1, 5 million tourists annually. The entertainment of the Romans was also a chariot race, which took place in the longitudinal stadiums called circus, of which the Maximum Roman Circus is best known. Its construction was initiated by Julius Caesar and completed by one of a the first floor was made of stone and two more were made of wood. Of course, the best places in the front rows were reserved for dignitaries, ordinary spectators took their seats alone, there were no tickets or fares. The carts belonged to four camps marked with colors: blue, white, red and green. Racing was an opportunity to place bets, gambling led many people to frown. The race began with a procession that reached the Circus Maximus from the carts participating in the race made about eight kilometers around the stadium. Most of the races ended earlier in the evening, but sometimes they continued with the artificial light of the lamps. The Romans voluntarily visited the Circus Attracted representatives from all groups of Roman society. More than one emperor from the palace windows of the nearby Palatial Hill looked curiously towards the slopes of the Circus Maximus, where he had his own hut, Fans and riots in the world of the Romans It seems that the excess of stadiums are a faithful of our times. However, 2,000 years ago, the ancient Romans had similar problems. Tacit's message about a tragic event has survived our times. (Annals, XIV.17). In 59 AD in Pompeii there was a riot between locals and fans of nearby Nuceria. The conflict was initially being resolved with the help of stones, but later - with swords. The result was a real massacre of newcomers - many with cut limbs and numerous wounds went to the capital. At the emperor's request, the Senate dealt with the matter, eventually deciding to punish the city with a 10-year ban on organizing the games. Event sponsors and inciters of the rampage were sentenced to exile. Games The most popular game of antiquity, known to date in a changed form, were dice games. Why in changed form? The game was called tali, and the cubes were originally bones of sheep or goats (the Greek name in the singular astragalos indicates the description of the faeces bone, in man the equivalent of the duct). The practical Romans did not want to play with food scraps , so they made bronze or metal cubes. What's more – you even found a bone-shaped vase. In this game the main activity was throwing the dice, of course. The exact way to score is unclear today, however, it is known that some throws had their names - the best was called the Venus launch and in the worst case scenario the player got a dog throw. There was also a variant Game (troop), where bones were thrown onto a ship with a tight neck. However, the Romans also knew small cubes marked as our bones today (only the sum of the tights on the opposite sides was always seven). The difference between them (tesserae) and tali it consisted of the rate, which was higher in tesserae. Most likely, the Romans used three cubes, while the Greeks used two. Today a wellknown cup was used, from which the bones were dumped. The old ones, however, also knew board games and were also used for gambling. One of these popular games was duodecim scriptorum (twelve makrs or twelve lines - the name obviously refers to some element of the game, but it is not known whether the number of fields on the board in a row, the result of the roll dice or the number of row fields on the board?). Terminology also causes problems, because the Romans call alea or tesserae any gameplay or those that use bones. Fresh showing ancient Romans playing football. It was a type of volleyball - a pilum in which hands and arms were used (usually protected against bruising). In any case, the game was about moving the fifteen pieces from the cup. When a piece landed on an opponent's occupied field, he had to return to the exit. Like playing backgammon, two pieces were unbeatable. The game is related to the Egyptian senet, certain medieval games, and also the aforementioned backgammon. It is interesting, that when the game was banned in Rome, the duodecim scripts modified the board seats to cards that make up the slogans such as: Parthi occisi Britto victus ludite Romani (With the Conquered British and the Dead Parthian, play the Romans.) or Levate dalocu ludere nescis recede (Get up from your seat; you don't know how to play, idiot). Roman stat that represents a girl playing There was also a game called Latrunculi (the term of which the origin of the name is suspected to be latrones and refers to bandits or mercenaries). The board size was varied (8 × 8, 8 × 12, 10 × 9, 11 × 10). Each of the two players has counters - normal and a single one (usually known as aguila - eagle. Players move their stones in succession. Any tile can be moved in any horizontal and vertical line, any number of squares. If an opponent's tile is between the two pieces of the player, then the surround is being removed from the board. The goal is to immobilize the eagle – surround it so that it cannot move. Tabula Lusoria. The name Tabula Lusoria is more of a description of the board and means more or less the same in Latin as the tablet for (play) games. The game is intended for two players, and consists of a special rosette board with eight boxes arranged in a circle (image) and two sets of pieces in two colors, three in each. This is a simple strategy game of the ancient Romans, en masse for bored soldiers in barracks or during breaks on military missions and civilian citizens of Rome. Its universality is evided by numerous joints engraved on stones where legionaries were stationed and in places of public utility for the entire Roman Empire. This game never ends in a draw as in a traditional toe tic. In addition, you can draw the board yourself and game counters can be stones or cones. If the previous game was known as ludus latrunculorum, board games with pebbles as counters were called terni lapilli, which can be compared to the game of ticking, if not for the fact that no signs of the circle and cross were used, but only chips. It is unclear how many chips each player had to use, so perhaps the association with the game known to all of us is wrong. We can't say much about many of the games mentioned above. We use poetic texts (Martial, Ovid), the writings of Plato, Pliny and Varro, as well as discoveries in archaeological sites throughout Europe. Often, however, we must guess the rules - in the sources available to us, they have never been unequivocally and completely written. Some of these games may seem familiar to us - most likely some of them have evolved over the years to take on a modern shape. There would be nothing strange about it, board games (and more!) were known even when Egypt was a powerful state. Libraries The Romans did not despise intellectual pastimes, collected books, created entire libraries to copy them. After the book was purchased, when it was in use, more copies were made. Private libraries were created for the first time. At the initiative of Julius Caesar, the first public library was created in Rome. To do this, he commissioned this plan from Varro, but ultimately failed to implement his idea. It was done by Gai Asinius Pollio, who located the library in the Atrium de la Libertatis (Atrium Libertatis) in the Roman Forum, where the censors' headquarters were located. The collection included Latin and Greek works. However, the fate of this first Roman public library is unknown. In 28 BC Augustus opened a library is unknown. In 28 BC Augustus opened a library is unknown. In 28 BC Augustus opened a library is unknown. Macer. This library, called a palatial library, was burned down during the unfortunate fire of 64 AD. It was then renovated by Domitian. However, it was again destroyed by the harmful item at 363 CE and burned completely. It was not the only library founded by Augustus; He also founded the so-called Bibliotheca Octavia. Will in the Porticus Octaviae in the field of Mars. And this one, however, did not resist the destructive power of and burned in 80 AD. However, Domitian reappeared and immediately ordered it renewed. Emperor Tiberium, following in his father's footsteps, established a library in the temple of the Divine Augustus. This burned in 69/70 AD. The next founder of the library was Trajan, who opened the so-called Bibliotheca Ulpia in the Forum of Trajan. Adrian didn't want to be worse and founded by Alexander Severus. During the reign of Constantine the Great there were 28 libraries in Rome, some of them were undoubtedly private foundations. Book collections grew thanks to the constant protection of rulers. Of course, there was censorship. There were times when some of the works were dragged from libraries and burns, such as the Holy Inquisition and the List of Forbidden Books. Libraries in other cities, both in Italy and the provinces, emerged from the kindness of wealthiest citizens. For example, Pliny the Younger founded the library in his hometown, Comum, at a cost of 1 million sesterces. In Suessa, lazio, Hadrian's mother-in-law financed the famous Bibliotheca Maridiana. The library in his hometown, Comum, at a cost of 1 million sesterces. by Marc Juli Flavius Rogatianus (he allocated 400,000 sesterces for this good cause). Provincial libraries serviced the needs of local readers and, in addition to Latin or Greek works, also contained the writings in their native languages. Unfortunately, in the 4th century AD the interest in reading fell. As Ammianus Marcellinus writes: Libraries are like closed tombs. Riddles In addition to games, the Romans were also passionate about guessing games like micatio digitis. The rules were very simple: two players, holding one hand on the back, the other, at first locked in a fist, at the same time open quickly. What guessed the sum of the fingers shown by the opponent won. They also had to play, guessing which side the coin tossed would fall on. The rules of many popular games right now with the lack of detailed descriptions remain unknown. Many of them are known to have used for games because the rules resembled draughts or chess. They often played dice, but this game was forbidden all year round, with the exception of Saturnalia, held in December in honor of the god Saturn (from that time comes the habit of giving small gifts). This ban was easily overcome; So did the officials responsible for the obeyance of the law and emperors. The dice were his constant pastime: with great luck He played Augustus, Tiberius, Caligulia, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Domitian and his successors played him. As you can see, not everyone wanted to the otium in accordance with the council of Cicero, that is. in search of a respite from public activities in mental effort. Theatrical performances A mosaic showing a theatrical group preparing for the performances, but also unusual specimens of flora and fauna. Initially, these novelties were shown during triumphal parades or performances in the amphitheatres, but later there were no more opportunities to do so: they were exhibited, for example, in public buildings. The Romans were eager to see foreign plants, such as tigers or twenty-metre long snakes. Crowds of people gathered around public exhibitions, such as giant animal bones: whales or crocodiles. Once, a stir in Rome was caused by a thirty-centimeter long dent. Although the spectator who sat in the theatre was not as well dressed as the Greek, all the people, including slaves, were present. During the performance, viewers expressed their emotions and opinions. Especially mime and pantomime were highly regarded in Rome, and the popularity of serious dramatic works wiped out the republic. Mural festival of the 1st century, Pompeii, presenting a multigenerational banquet. Na licencji Creative Commons Uznanie autorstwa - Na tych samych warunkach 3.0. The Romans liked to enjoy the party. Over time, the tendency to luxury and luxury displaced the strict customs of the ancestors, who also command restraint in the dining room. Parties in wealthy homes could go on forever. They became glamorous and long, dishes - unusual and surprising; until finally, in the Roman houses appeared vomitoria - places where you could relieve the stomach, making room for the following dishes. The less affluent inhabitants of Rome visited restaurants and bars. Many delicious and ancient dishes could not be tasted today without worrying about the consequences, but were then considered delicious and eaten voluntarily. In a city like Rome, restaurants and bars were often open all night: a large group of its inhabitants had no cuisine in their own homes. In restaurants divided by category, you can spend time eating, drinking wine, sitting at a game table or talking. Education This type of entertainment did not meet the needs of intellectuals, people interested in science, literature, philosophy. As conquests increased, interest in Greece became increasingly frequent, and more frequent became also in contact with its inhabitants, slaves and free people. The Greeks were also curious about Rome and visited it more and more frequently. Is that the practical descendants of Rómulus show great interest in the opinions of Greek philosophers. This interest was shared by mature people and young people. This is one of a that young people gave up sports training on the Mars field to hear discussions about philosophy. This caused the Great Anxiety of the Senate, which, fearing the influence of Helenism on prevailing customs, occasionally ordered greek philosophers and city speakers removed. And yet Graecia victa ferum victorem vicit: Conquered Greece in turn defeated its wild conqueror: under his influence in Rome literary circles begin to emerge, bringing together not only Romans, but also Greeks. It is customary for authors to read fragments of their works in small, closed circles, in the shadow of the porticos, in the bathrooms, in the emperor's house or at the home of the writer himself or the publisher (bookseller). Fragments of poetry, historical works, tragedies and discourses were presented. Over time, many meetings with creators become public and open. In the following centuries, other literary circles were created by wealthy protectors of talented poets and writers, for example. by Gai Maecenas, Valerius Messala Corvinus and Gneus Asinius. During the empire, every day he brought a meeting with another writer to pass the time. The author had the discussion, criticism and comments. He spent a lot of time reading. Not all Romans who have scientific and literary interests had an adequate collection of works to study. The library of Cicero's publisher, the mysterious Atticus, who enthusiastically invited his friend to one of the suburban villas, would be able to yield to his scientific and literary passions without any problems. Public libraries appeared in Rome only during the empire, and the first was opened to the Palatinate by Augustus. In the footsteps of the empire in Rome there were thirty libraries. Bread and games Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Roman people, demanding food and entertainment, called the famous words Bread and Games (Panem et circenses). It was a phrase created by the Roman people. These demands were implemented, among others, through gladiator games, during which coins were thrown at the crowd, or public holiday organization for thousands of people. It also happened that bread, grain and money were given to individuals (during the empire, a fixed amount was thus allocated to one person, in the first century AD it was 75 denarii); the number of donated in this way during the reign of Augustus was about two hundred thousand. The dispensation of this type was organized by wealthy citizens of other cities, and its special form was maintenance funds for orphans. The was not so much humanitarian or calming social tensions, but winning hecessary popularity in political activities. Contacts with people were an opportunity for emperors to know the moods among society. The most generous donors included, among others, Sulla, Julius Caesar, Pompey or Trajan. The last of these emperors is the author of thought: The Roman people can be kept alone only by distributing grain and games. Sources Grant Michael, Gladiatorzy, 1980 Livius.org Matthews Rupert, Rzym mroczny, ponury, krwawy, Warszawa 2007 Winniczuk Lidia, Ludzie, zwyczaje and obyczaje starożytnej Grecji and Rzymu, PWN, Warszawa 1983 ROMANUM Your financial assistance is necessary, in order to maintain and develop the website. Even the smallest amounts will allow me to pay for new fixes, site improvements and pay for the server. I think I can have broad support that will allow me to devote more to my work and passion, maximize the improvement of the website and present the history of the ancient Romans in an interesting way. SUPPORT IMPERIUM ROMANUM! News from the world of ancient RomeSi want to keep up to date with news and discoveries from the world of ancient Rome, subscribe to the newsletter. 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