

LEGION XVIII LYBICAE Vexillum

In this 2019 will be marked anniversary 2010 years of the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest. This is an significant anniversary related to Roman Military History. It passed 10 years of the celebration of the first 2000 years anniversary and I think there is now a possibility to conduct extensive and quality reenactment event. There was plenty of time for every reenactor (how have interest) to be prepare correct and in quality for this early Roman Imperial period.

I'm a big fan of Roman history in present Germany and I tried to get to know the theme in detail.

We in our club have done our best to prepare for this historical period.



We have acquired appropriate equipment for this period the end of 1 century B.C. and the beginning of 1 A.D. So we have the capability to introduce ourselves in some of the events on topic Varus and the Battle of Teutoburg Forest 9 A.D. together with our barbarian warriors from our club which will be equipped as warriors from the German tribes .



If there is an event planned at international level we are willing to introduce our selves under the Standard of one the destroyed legions there LEGION XVIII LYBICAE. I think it would be a good idea to honor this destroyed legions. 2 years ago we start to produce a Standart for this LEGION XVIII LYBICAE.



To do this Roman Standart we were inspired by the reverse of the denarius coin of the legendary commander Marc Antony.



Because legions which we currently recreating LEGION IIII SCYTHICA never was active in the Roman-German Wars (or there is no evidence of this). We decided to participate in possible events on this occasion with Legion that actually participated in this battle. I made my researches on the topic. This will be one of ours temporary metamorphosis necessary for our correct participation in eventual events.

The publications for this Legion is very scarce and I managed after long study to gather the following information.



I do not claim that this publication is on a scientific level. My publication is primarily aimed at a reenactment society.

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Finally after 2010 LEG XVIII LYBICAE is back in action ,after his unfortunate fate in year 9th in the Teutoburg Forest. The event was held in ancient AQVINCVM present Budapest the middle stream of the Danube. For our joy this Vexillum of LEG XVIII LYBICAE has been restored by us for the first time after over 20 centuries.



My new introduction on the subject is my creative project:

Stripes studs suitable for Roman standards.

Over three years I progressively and methodically work on this project as well I used the completion of our new one Vexillum dedicated to the legendary legion LEG XVIII LYBICAE.

These small studs are similar to Roman Phalerae, but in small-scale. From the limited archeology findings similar images are observed in both cases, Imperial Images together in combination with Victory and difference is in the size. So, I think that it is quite possible that some of these imperial images are given to the military flags on different occasions.



My creative waxwork on the subject.



Of course, similar round shapes studs may have been used to decorate swords, balteus, cingulum belts or horse and chariots straps.

But let's get back to our topic in our case we are talking about a historical period up to Emperor Augustus ,LEG XVIII LYBICAE was destroyed in the 9 AD in the Teutoburg Forest. So I will have to limit myself with the images of the actual existed Emperors for this Legion and other Roman commandos of this period of existence. Legio duodevigesima (Eighteenth Legion, spelled XVIII or XIX) was probably raised by M. Antony. So Antony's profile on application is right for the case. Followed by two different profiles of August which I have made myself closed in decorative rosettes. One of the Octavian images on left another to the right.

Of course 2 great commanders from the period are not forgotten Tiberius and his brother Drusus. One of them later became Emperor of Rome and the other was the father of Emperor Claudius and General Gemanicus. Here Drusus is presented from me in full face.

With these 5 images I will decorate our new Roman standart.

The stripes pendants are my old project that is very suitable for such a case and I wanted to realize.



In Germania campaigns take an active part Augustus' generals Drusus (13-9 BC) and Tiberius (8 BC and 4-5 BC). In those years, the eighteenth (XVIII) legion was probably based at Xanten or Oberaden/Haltern. In 5, the conquest was completed and Augustus sent Publius Quinctilius Varus to rule the area as a governor, impose tribute and establish civil rule.



In 6 CE, Tiberius was to lead at least eight legions (VIII Augusta from Pannonia, XV Apollinaris and XX Valeria Victrix from Illyricum, XXI Rapax from Raetia, XIII Gemina, XIV Gemina and XVI Gallica from Germania Superior and an unknown unit) against king Maroboduus of the Marcomanni in Czechia; at the same time, I Germanica, V Alaudae, XVII, XVIII and XIX were to move against Czechia as well, attacking it along the Elbe. It was to be the most grandiose operation that was ever conducted by a Roman army, but a rebellion in Pannonia obstructed its execution. Detailed information on the subject here.

<http://legio-iiii-scythica.com/index.php/en/history-and-artifacts/anniversary-events/2010-yearsof-illyrian-revolt.html>

Cenotaph of Marcus Caelius

It took three years to suppress the revolt. In these years, the Eighteenth was still with Varus. In September 9, however, the Cheruscan leader Arminius, one of Rome's most loyal allies, turned himself against the governor.

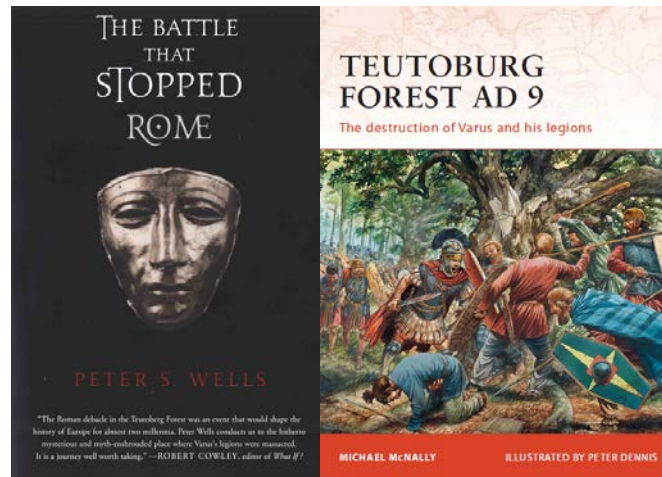
Whatever its origins - Lentulian, Pompeian, Caesarian, Octavian, Antonian - the Eighteenth (XVIII) was at some stage (c.15 BC?) sent to the Rhine, together with XVI Gallica and the seventeenth legion. It is possible, but again hypothetical, that the Eighteenth had been stationed in Aquitania between the battle off Actium and the transfer.

<http://www.livius.org/articles/legion/legio-xviii/>

This is an excerpt from the TV series I Claudius .How well Robert Graves said 42 years ago!He has shown in a wonderful way the attitude of these two generals to their legions exactly from this period before year 9 A.D.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM0wZ3gyJ3I&feature=youtu.be>

I got these valuable books “THE BATTLE THAT STOPPED ROME” by Peter S. Wells and “TEUTOBURG FOREST AD 9” by MICHAEL McNALLY. The theme there is affected very detailed.



This is an excerpt from the moment when the survivor report in front of Augustus the terrible news of the unfortunate fate of the 3 Roman Legions in the far German Limes-XVII, XVIII and XIX.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5FfgADDgOE>

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From my point of view, the same engravers who worked in Imperial coin workshops engraved part of these images. Some of the artifacts appear to be of lower quality and may have been produced in local workshops near to the Roman Limes.

These Stripes studs (which are currently my topic) are replicas of existing studs but dedicated to other imperial images. I guess that these originals from Vindonissa-Museum are of Octavian Augustus and down to the left Imp. Trajan (on the black-and-white photo).



This one profile here looks very much like Hadrianus to me. The bearded, the nose are his.



This one here is 100% Imp.Galba. Although for this artifact I do not have archaeological data from a scientific publication



Some of them have similarities with the Flavius family.



This one is certainly Nero, but for this artifact I do not have any information from publications or other sources . The big difference with other models is that here are also letters (probably it is a copy from sestetius).



So I think that in antiquity there was similar applications of the other Roman Emperors, used by the legionnaires as small phalerae or decorations for suspension on various objects that emphasize their devotion to the Emperor. Regarding the images which I have recreated on such small appliqué (of emperors and generals), I have no evidence for the existence but this is my creative solutions.

The dimensions I have used are consistent with the scientific publications of similar finds-applications.

There are a number of confirmations for stripes studs using in decoration of Roman standarts stripes.



The figure, symbols of Victory/Nike

The idea of a standart with Victory on the top of vexillum occurs with us 7 years ago but just now we have found the occasion to use it for this purpose. Here is depiction of Victory on military Standard from Trajan's column as well as from other monuments.



More information on our creative solution here:

http://legio-iii-scythica.com/images/roman_pdf/The_figure_symbol_of_Victory-Nike.pdf

The sign of the LEG XVIII LYBICAE is unknown, so we used Victory as an option. Given that Victoria has been used for these purposes, such as the Vexillum from Egypt, now in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia.



In all our club Vexilla we used imitation of Metal thread embroidery technology.

<https://www.facebook.com/elena.che.38/videos/1501692913239898/>