

ROMAN SAILING



Roman Floor
Mosaic
Depicting
Sailing Ship.

The Romans inherited the Phoenician sailing knowledge of exploration and commerce and used it in a different way. At first it was just a simple "plus ultra" idea, that later developed into a military and expansionist philosophy that annihilated the Greek and Carthaginian fleets, giving birth to the "Mare Nostrum" concept. The Mediterranean Sea turned into a forum for settling disputes for the newly established city of Rome.

The Romans used the commercial and cultural threads left by the Phoenicians from coast to coast, allowing them to trade Oriental products with the Celts and vice versa.

Merchant ships were introduced that were capable of moving 450 metric tons. Phoenicians knew how to defend themselves from pirates. According to some Assyrian bas-reliefs dating from 700 B.C., the Phoenicians had a ship like the Bireme, with a square sail and a cutwater in the bows, acting as a defense ship; later the Greeks would perfect it.

Greece and Carthage followed the Phoenicians' footsteps in the commercial endeavors from the Black Sea to the Western Mediterranean. The Greeks founded more than 250 colonies from 750 to 550 B.C.



Bas-relief
Sculpture of a
Roman
Warship.



Roman Ships (I-II Century B.C.) Engraving

A New Seafarer

For the newly established Romans the Mediterranean Sea offered them the chance of creating a great center for commerce.

The Romans immediately put their hands to work. There is an anecdote that at the time the Romans put all their countrymen to practice rowing on land.

There was a great obstacle in the Mediterranean - Carthage. The Carthaginians had all the naval and commercial knowledge inherited by the Phoenicians, but the big difference was that Carthage had a strong military structure.

The Roman Senate was aware of the problem and after the first Punic War in Sicily ordered the construction of one hundred "quinqueremes" and twenty "triremes".

They learned how to make quinqueremes

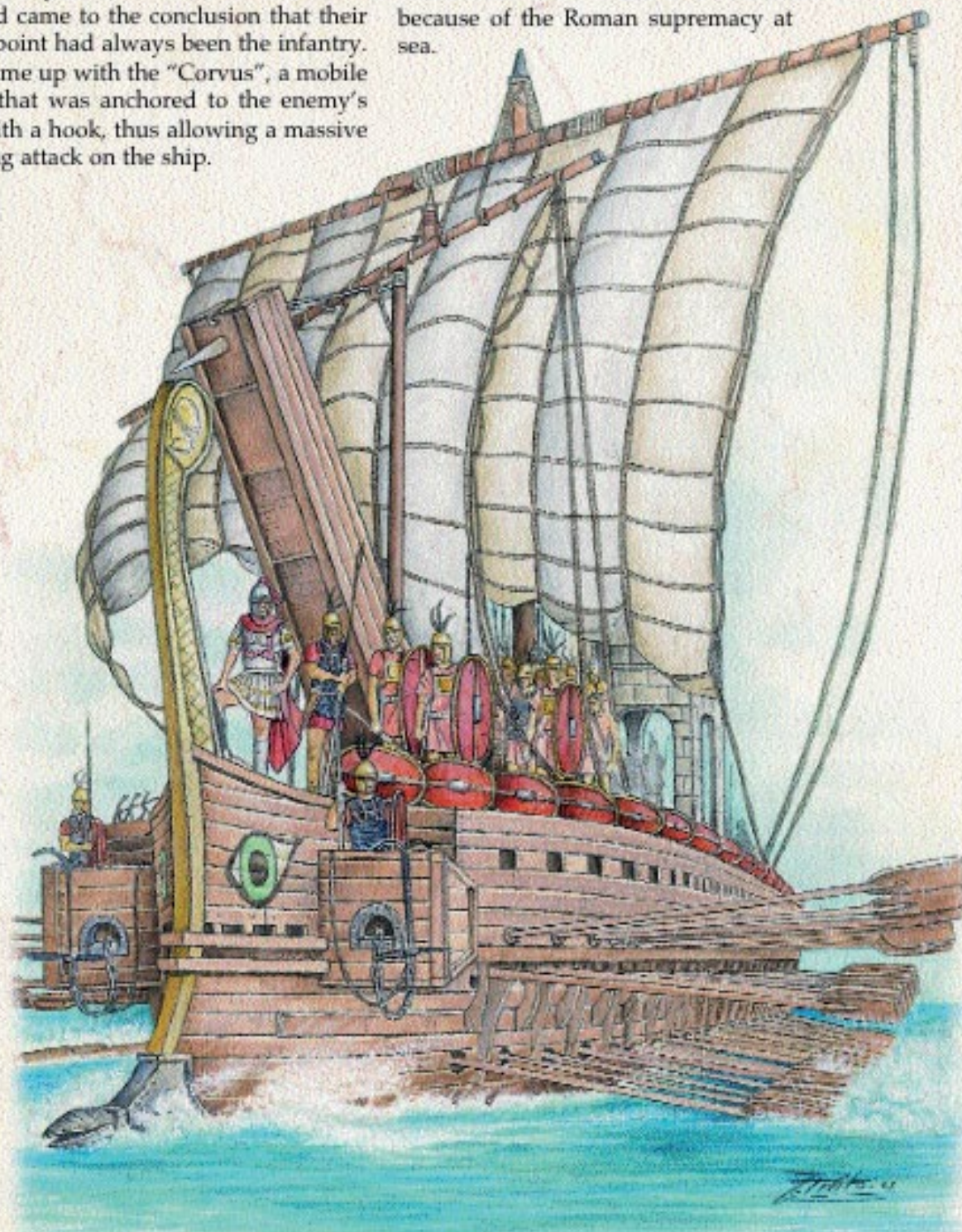
by copying a Carthaginian ship that ran aground in Roman territory. After a humble beginning, the Romans noticed that they could not fight those expert sailors in their own area of expertise.

They analyzed themselves in this situation and came to the conclusion that their strong point had always been the infantry. They came up with the "Corvus", a mobile bridge that was anchored to the enemy's deck with a hook, thus allowing a massive boarding attack on the ship.

The Conquest of Il Mare Nostrum

Thanks to the infantry's efficiency during the naval engagements, Rome defeated the Carthaginians in the battle of Mylae, north of Sicily in 260 B.C.

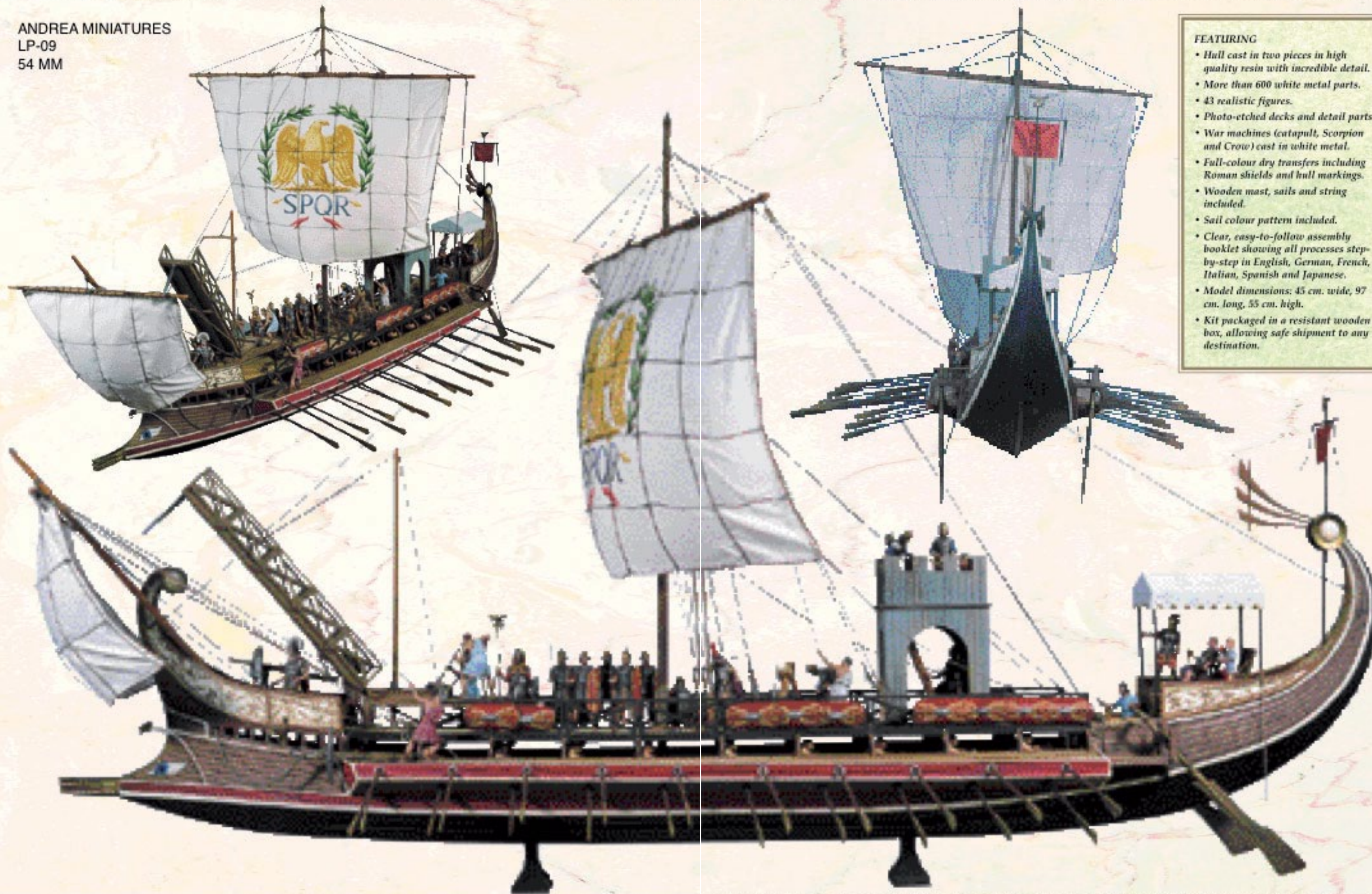
The term Mare Nostrum came about because of the Roman supremacy at sea.



ROMAN TRIREME

The illustration shows a Roman trireme from the Punic War period, powered by sail and oar. The spur can be seen in the foreground.

ANDREA MINIATURES
LP-09
54 MM



FEATURING

- Hull cast in two pieces in high quality resin with incredible detail.
- More than 600 white metal parts.
- 43 realistic figures.
- Photo-etched decks and detail parts.
- War machines (catapult, Scorpion and Crow) cast in white metal.
- Full-colour dry transfers including Roman shields and hull markings.
- Wooden mast, sails and string included.
- Sail colour pattern included.
- Clear, easy-to-follow assembly booklet showing all processes step-by-step in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Japanese.
- Model dimensions: 45 cm. wide, 97 cm. long, 55 cm. high.
- Kit packaged in a resistant wooden box, allowing safe shipment to any destination.

MODELLING AND PAINTING WATER



No doubt water has always been an element that has attracted modellers and enthusiasts alike throughout the ages.

For the modeller, the complexity of achieving more realistic effects is a challenge and for the enthusiast, "solid" water in a scale scene is always something to admire.

As mentioned before, simulating the transparency of the sea was one of the aspects that most worried the teams when planning the diorama.

We started with a foam base of 140 x 100 cm. This was sanded and the form was created with a blowtorch. Waves were added using clay; aluminium foil was used to give the waves the right texture.

The inevitable cracks that appeared while the clay was curing were covered with epoxy putty. When dry, white glue was used on the surface to completely cover the "water".

Next the water section was placed on a 190 by 150 cm wood base extending 25 cm on each side. These



margins served as bases to hold a negative mould, also made with clay and previously covered with transparent film.

The negative mould of the original model was covered next with 12 layers of fibreglass polyester resin.

Once the last layer was dry the clay was removed and the voids left by the original and the negative moulds were filled; but first we applied some mould release agent to the original surface and also to the negative one. When finish we sealed the project with foam, tape and silicone.

This massive model took several days to cure. The negative mould was taken off first, then the silicone mould was extracted, resulting in a kind of swimming pool that later would be filled with transparent resin previously tinted a blue-green colour. It was warmed up with a blowtorch during the application to make the transparent resin more fluid and to release any air bubbles trapped within.

