

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GLADIATORS

Daniel P. Mannix

Relive the spectacular and bloody battles of the gladiators by visiting Ancient Rome, where you will learn the details about these warriors and how they risked their lives in order to entertain masses of people thirsting to witness blood and death.

## Synopsis

A Brief History of the Gladiators tells of how strapping war prisoners, fugitives, or criminals learned the techniques of fighting in the *Ludi* (gladiator schools), wrapped themselves in samnite, secutor, retiarius, or thracian armament, and jumped into the sandy ring to either triumph or die. The book also reveals the history of the Roman Coliseum, which was constructed by Vespasian with an impressive seating capacity for 50,000 spectators made up of Roman citizens, patriarchs and plebeians, all looking to cheer their favorite gladiators.

The book goes on to describe the games, like those organized by Emperor Trajan that lasted 122 days and resulted in the death of 11,000 fighters and 10,000 animals. The book also details the slow decline of these spectacles and how, despite Constantine's ban of this sport in 325 A.D., they continued being organized until approximately 500 A.D.

## Biography

Daniel P. Mannix was a well-known and acclaimed journalist and writer and was the author of over 20 books, including several *best sellers* like *The Fox and the Hound*, *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Those About To Die*, *The History of Torture*, *The Hell-fire Club*, *Memoirs of a Sword Swallower*, and *The Beast*. A specialist in historical subjects, juvenile literature, and noir, he eventually became a writer with a strong cult following. Born in Pennsylvania (USA) in 1911, he was a constant traveler and multitalented person who lived an exciting life as a hunter, magician, and fakir. Up until his death in 1997, he lived on his ranch surrounded by his books, his falcon, his horses, and his reptile collection.

## Sales Pitch

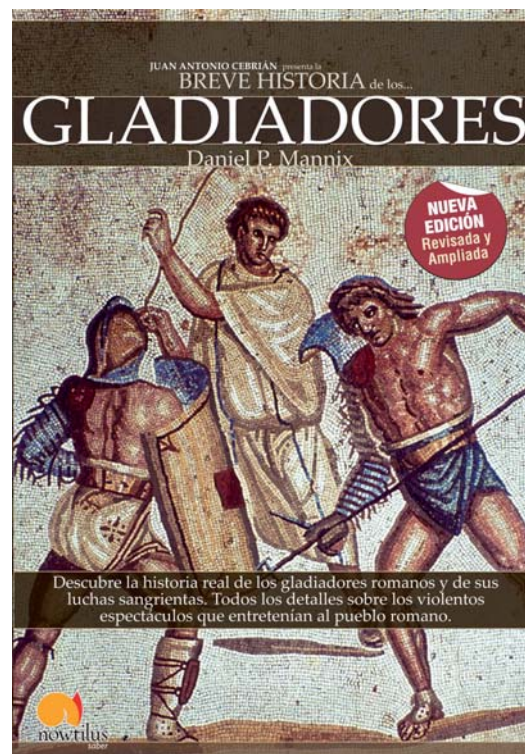
**NEWLY UPDATED AND EXPANDED EDITION:** Because of book's long-time popularity, a new edition with expanded content and new illustrative content is being made available to the public.

**GENERAL INTEREST:** The history of Classic Rome is a highly popular topic that doesn't seem to go out of style. It is also one that continually generates widespread interest, both among readers and the motion picture industry.

**FOR FANS OF THE ART OF FIGHTING:** This work gives a detailed overview of the arms, the training, and the fighting techniques employed by different gladiators.

**BOOK THAT INSPIRED THE MOVIE GLADIATOR:** This book served as a point of inspiration for the script for directed by Ridley Scott.

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