

'Io triumphe'

ALTHOUGH THE EXACT HISTORY AND ALL THE DETAILS OF THE PROCEDURE OF THE ROMAN TRIUMPH ESCAPE US, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS AN EVENT OF GREAT CULTURAL AND PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR A REPUBLICAN ROMAN GENERAL AND EVEN AN EMPEROR TO BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE. SURELY THIS EPITOME OF THE ANCIENT VICTORY CELEBRATION HAD TO BE ON OUR COVER FOR THIS ISSUE.



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Rome, showing the future emperor celebrating his victory in Judea. Very likely depicting a triumph is the earthenware panel with shackled prisoners on a cart. They were a standard component in a triumphal parade. The panel is now on display at the British museum. The final

image was carved from a tortoise shell now in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum in Bonn. It is a third century AD appliqué showing the triumphator in his chariot, again holding a scepter and being crowned by a Victory, as on Titus' arch. ■

Johnny Shumate has portrayed Vespasian's son Titus, with his body painted red as Pliny the Elder reported it, in his triumphal chariot. He's holding a branch of laurel and a scepter symbolizing his reign over the world. The emperor wears the *toga picta* which in our sources is described as purple with a varying degree of extra decoration. Behind him is a slave holding a golden crown, whispering the famous words "Look behind you and remember that you are a man [i.e. mortal]." The triumphator is here surrounded by his soldiers, armed with *lanceae* instead of *pila* as on the Boscoreale cup.

That cup, now preserved at the Louvre, was regrettably not on display when we wanted to photograph it, but there are many other pictorial sources for the triumph. The trouble, however, is that they often vary in details or may not actually even depict a triumph. A definite depiction of a triumph can of course be seen on the arch of Titus in



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