

## The Battle of Actium on Aeneas' shield as described by Virgil

The likeness of the swollen sea flowed everywhere among these,  
in gold, though the flood foamed with white billows,  
and dolphins in bright silver swept the waters  
round about with arching tails, and cut through the surge.  
In the centre bronze ships could be seen, the Battle of Actium,  
and you could make out all Leucate in feverish  
preparation for war, the waves gleaming with gold.  
On one side Augustus Caesar stands on the high stern,  
leading the Italians to the conflict, with him the Senate,  
the People, the household gods, the great gods, his happy brow  
shoots out twin flames, and his father's star is shown on his head.  
Elsewhere Agrippa, favoured by the winds and the gods  
leads his towering column of ships, his brow shines  
with the beaks of the naval crown, his proud battle distinction.  
On the other side Antony, with barbarous wealth and strange weapons,  
conqueror of eastern peoples and the Indian shores, bringing Egypt,  
and the might of the Orient, with him, and furthest Bactria:  
and his Egyptian consort follows him (the shame).

[...]

Barking Anubis, and monstrous gods of every kind  
brandish weapons against Neptune, Venus,  
and Minerva. Mars rages in the centre of the contest,  
engraved in steel, and the grim Furies in the sky,  
and Discord in a torn robe strides joyously, while  
Bellona follows with her blood-drenched whip.  
Apollo of Actium sees from above and bends his bow: at this  
all Egypt, and India, all the Arabs and Sabaeans turn and flee.

Virgile, *Aeneid*, VIII, 471-688 ; 698-706

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