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Imperium Romanum

Pen of the Year 2018

An empire that runs through the millennia

The Pen of the Year series began in 2003 and has established a firm place among connoisseurs of fine writing culture. These exclusive writing implements appear in limited editions and present unusual materials fashioned by hand with great skill. Each Pen of the Year tells a story of an epoch and people whose deeds made a strong impression on the history of mankind. This year it centres on an empire that extended over three continents: Europe, Africa, and Asia. Even today, in the early 3rd millennium, it still exerts immeasurable influence on our world: the Imperium Romanum.

The eternal city

The city on the Tiber reached the zenith of its power in AD 117. Its vast field of influence extended from Scotland to Nubia in Africa and from Portugal to Mesopotamia in present-day Iraq. With its numerous peoples, the Roman empire embodied the idea of an “imperium sine fine”, a boundless empire, ruled from the “eternal city”. Rome’s symbol is the Colosseum: the legendary arena where the gladiators fought is an architectural wonder that has survived the changes and upheavals of the ages.

The splendor of the legions

Besides a rigid organizational structure, the main pillar of Rome’s power was the famous legions. They were characterized by a special mentality. Legionnaires were no daredevil warriors but highly trained soldiers. With their unflinching and selfless spirit they even succeeded in conquering Hannibal, a genius of strategy.

Compelling spirit, epoch-making works

Our image of ancient Rome is marked by emperors, gladiators, and legions. But the influence of the Roman empire is much deeper and more varied. Culture and the arts blossomed at that time. Rome remains our example in other ways, too. The legal and political system in most European countries is based on the Roman model. Latin words are embedded in our languages, especially as scientific terms. And the Latin alphabet is used for written communication throughout the world. Typical Roman elements such as arches, columns, and domes are characteristic of many government buildings and grand houses.

Veni, vidi, vici

Gaius Julius Caesar held important office at an early age, conquered all of Gaul as far as the Rhine. As no other, he knew how to follow up his deeds with memorable words. After the battle of Zela, when his legionnaires exhausted the troops of King Pharnaces II in just four hours, he wrote to a friend “veni vidi vici” – I came, I saw, I conquered. The conversion of the Roman Republic into an Empire began with Caesar. He was the first ruler to be represented on Roman coins during his lifetime.

The stone of the Gods

Stone of the gods: that is how the Greeks expressed their respect for the beauty of marble. The Romans took up the theme: marble statues were reserved for gods and emperors. Marble of the highest quality from Carrara in Tuscany made a significant contribution to the radiance that commanded so much respect.

Beauty in white

A unique aura surrounds the extremely fine-grained, gleaming white ‘statuario’ marble from Carrara. In the world of luxury, statuario stands for elegance and prestige to meet the most demanding standards. It forms an impressive sight in the entrance hall of the Faber-Castell castle, for example. For the ‘Imperium Romanum’ Pen of the Year 2018 we have chosen a special variety of statuario. Each individual pen is produced by hand with masterly skill in the Stephan jewel studios. Inserted between the marble segments of the barrel are platinum-plated rings decorated with laurel wreaths, symbolizing fame and success, and lending the pen its inimitable elegance. A further unusual detail in this edition is the elaborately worked cap with an engraving of the famous Colosseum and a miniature Roman penny (denarius). The denarius in the cap of this edition is modelled on a very rare silver coin from the year 44 BC depicting Caesar’s head.

Black elegance

The radiance of the Black Edition stands in fascinating contrast. In the search for a suitable opposite number to white statuario marble, Nero Marquina from the Vizcaya (Biscay) region in the Basque country was chosen. It combines in a refined way a basic black colour with pronounced white veins. It harmonizes perfectly with the anthracite-grey titanium PVD coating that gives an ever-changing appearance in use. The fountain pen is fitted with a ruthenium-plated 18-carat gold nib, already run in by hand, which matches perfectly the very masculine appearance of the barrel. The cap of the Black Edition is also adorned by an engraving of the Colosseum and a miniature Roman penny (denarius).

The platinum-plated fountain pen with its 18-carat gold nib is a limited edition of 400. Only 120 of the roller-ball pen are being made. The exclusive Black Edition is limited to 330 fountain pens and 100 roller-ball pens. All are individually numbered and come in a highly polished black wooden case. A certificate bearing the signature of Count Charles von Faber-Castell attests that these are all strictly limited editions.



Imperium Romanum

Pen of the Year 2018

Technical data fountain pen

Launch and availability	from November 2017
Barrel	Marble with platinum-plated rings
Metal parts	Platinum-plated
Nib	18-carat gold, bicolor
Nib widths	M
Mechanism	Plunger mechanism
Weight	90g
Overall length	137,60 mm
Production	400 pieces



Imperium Romanum

Pen of the Year 2018

Technical data rollerball pen

Launch and availability	from November 2017
Barrel	Marble with platinum-plated rings
Metal parts	Platinum-plated
Cartridge	Magnum format, ruby ball M
Weight	94g
Overall length	137,60 mm
Production	120 pieces



Imperium Romanum

Pen of the Year 2018

Black Edition

Technical data fountain pen

Launch and availability	from November 2017
Barrel	Marble
Metal parts	PVD titanium coating
Nib	18-carat gold with ruthenium coating
Nib width	M
Mechanism	Plunger mechanism
Weight	90g
Overall length	137,60 mm
Production	330 pieces



Imperium Romanum

Pen of the Year 2018

Black Edition

Technical data rollerball pen

Launch and availability	from November 2017
Barrel	Marble
Metal parts	PVD titanium coating
Cartridge	Magnum format, ruby ball M
Weight	94g
Overall length	137,60 mm
Production	100 pieces