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Greek and Roman Artillery 399 BC-AD 363 (New Vanguard ...

The Greeks and Romans both made extensive use of artillery for shooting large arrows or rocks. The technology was developed quite rapidly, from the earliest gastraphetes in about 399 BC to the most advanced torsion artillery in about 300 BC at the time of Demetrius Polyiorcetes. No improvement, except in details, was ever made upon the catapults of Demetrius. The Romans obtained their knowledge from the Greeks, and employed the Greek specialists. Five Greek and Roman sources have survived: two t

Greek and Roman artillery - Wikipedia

The catapult (katapultikon) was invented under the patronage of Dionysius I, tyrant of Syracuse, in the 4th century bc. At first only the arrow-firing variant was used, and it was not until the reign of Alexander the Great that stone-projecting catapults were introduced. The Romans adopted these weapons during the Punic Wars and further developed them, before introducing the new arrow-firing ...

Greek and Roman Artillery 399 BC – AD 363 - Osprey Publishing

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Greek and Roman artillery; historical development ...

According to a long dominant view expressed by E. W. Marsden, the gastraphetes was invented in 399 BC by a team of Greek craftsmen assembled by the tyrant Dionysius I of Syracuse. However, recent scholarship has pointed out that the historian Diodorus Siculus (fl. 1st century BC) actually did not mention the gastraphetes, but was referring to the invention of the "katapultikon", a mechanical arrow firing catapult .

Gastraphetes - Wikipedia

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Defining a piece of artillery as "a relatively complex engine powered by springs of resilient material, composed of several mechanical devices, and designed to hurl bolts or shot over the longest possible range", Marsden presents a comprehensive account of the development and historical employment of ancient artillery from its invention in 399 BC to the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West (c. AD 400).

E W Marsden, Greek and Roman Artillery - AbeBooks

Diodorus Siculus writes that in 399 BC the catapult, katapultikon, was invented under the patronage of Dionysius I, the tyrant of Syracuse. But the Roman engineer Heron of Alexandria explains in "Ctesibius's manufacture of missile weapons", Ktesibiou Belopoiika , that this weapon was inspired by an earlier weapon, the gastraphetes or belly shooter.

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