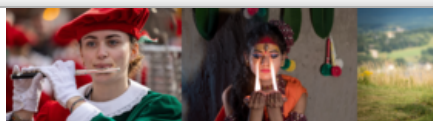




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From today's featured article



Sappho (standing) as
imagined by [Lawrence Alma-Tadema](#) in 1881

Anactoria is a woman mentioned in the work of the [ancient Greek](#) poet [Sappho](#) (*pictured*), who wrote in the late 7th and early 6th centuries BCE. Sappho names Anactoria as the object of her desire in a poem numbered as [fragment 16](#). Another of her poems, [fragment 31](#), is traditionally called the "Ode to Anactoria", although no name appears in it. As portrayed by Sappho, Anactoria is likely to have been an aristocratic follower of hers, of marriageable age. The English poet [Algernon Charles Swinburne](#)'s

"Anactoria" was published in 1866 and is written from the point of view of

Sappho, who expresses her lust for Anactoria in a long, sexually explicit monologue written in rhyming [couplets](#) of [iambic pentameter](#). Swinburne's poem created a sensation by openly approaching then-taboo topics such as [lesbianism](#) and [dystheism](#). Anactoria later featured in an 1896 play by H. V. Sutherland and in the 1961 poetic series "Three Letters to Anaktoria" by [Robert Lowell](#). ([Full article...](#))

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Did you know ...

- ... that [red velvet cake](#) (*example pictured*) has been described as "the [Dolly Parton](#) of cakes"?
- ... that [Hidayat Arsani](#), the governor of the [Bangka Belitung Islands](#) in Indonesia, was dumped into a trash can as a baby by his birth parents?
- ... that [Operation Dugo](#) commemorates the [death march](#) from the [Auschwitz concentration camp](#) annually on 18 January with the consumption of [falafel](#)?
- ... that the [1990 Serbian general election](#) returned only two women to the [National Assembly of Serbia](#)?



Slice of red velvet cake

- ... that a desire to be separated from [Chicago](#) has led 33 counties in downstate [Illinois](#) to hold [referendums on secession](#)?
- ... that the [Mazarrón I shipwreck](#) combines [Phoenician](#) and local [Iberian](#) shipbuilding techniques?
- ... that the [Sparkles emoji](#) (🔥) is used by large software companies to represent [artificial intelligence](#)?
- ... that the exterior of [Shamsher Khan's tomb](#) originally featured richly painted designs, of which only traces survive?
- ... that [Bargain Hunters](#), a game show with elements of [home shopping](#), was described as having "all the most irritating traits of game shows"?

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In the news

- In [the German federal election](#), the [CDU/CSU](#), led by [Friedrich Merz](#) (*pictured*), wins the most seats in the [Bundestag](#).
- Archaeologists announce that the empty tomb [Wadi C-4](#) near [Luxor](#), Egypt, was that of the pharaoh [Thutmose II](#).
- At [the British Academy Film Awards](#), [Conclave](#) wins four awards, including [Best Film](#).
- [Mahamoud Ali Youssouf is elected](#) chairman of the [African Union Commission](#).
- [President of Romania Klaus Iohannis](#) resigns from office, and is succeeded by [Ilie Bolojan](#) in an acting capacity.



Friedrich Merz

Ongoing: [M23 campaign](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) ([timeline](#)) · [Sudanese civil war](#) ([timeline](#))
Recent deaths: [Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir Bibas](#) · [Gene Hackman](#) · [Jeong Su-il](#) · [Michelle Trachtenberg](#) · [Abdullah Al Noman](#)

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On this day

February 28: [Tibetan New Year](#) begins (2025); [Kalevala Day](#) in Finland; [Peace Memorial Day](#) in Taiwan

- [202 BC](#) – Rebel leader Liu Bang declared himself [Emperor Gaozu of Han](#) after overthrowing the [Qin dynasty](#), the first [imperial dynasty of China](#).
- [1897](#) – [Ranavalona III](#) (*pictured*), the last sovereign ruler of the [Kingdom of Madagascar](#), was deposed by French military forces.
- [1928](#) – Indian physicist [C. V. Raman](#) and his colleagues discovered what is now known as [Raman scattering](#), for which he later became the first Asian to win the [Nobel Prize in Physics](#).
- [1975](#) – A [London Underground](#) train failed to stop at the terminal [Moorgate](#) station, [crashing and causing the deaths of 43 people](#).
- [2002](#) – During [a period of religious violence](#) in [Gujarat](#), India, mobs of Hindus attacked Muslims [in Naroda Patiya](#) and [in Chamanpura](#), resulting in 166 deaths.



Ranavalona III of Madagascar

[Cornelius Gemma](#) (b. 1535) · [Alfred von Schlieffen](#) (b. 1833) · [Charles Bassett](#) and [Elliot See](#) (d. 1966) · [Koesbini](#) (d. 1991)

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From today's featured list

The [International Film Music Critics Association Award for Best Original Score for Television](#) is an annual award given by the [International Film Music Critics Association](#) (IFMCA). Established in 2004, the award is given to the composer of a [television score](#) based on two criteria: "the effectiveness, appropriateness and emotional impact of the score in the context of the film for which it was written; and the technical and intellectual merit of the composition when heard as a standalone listening experience." As of 2025, 74 composers have been nominated for the award. The first award was given to [Steve Bartek](#) and [Danny Elfman](#) for their work on the television series [Desperate Housewives](#). The most recent recipient, [Bear McCreary](#) (*pictured*), won for his score for [The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power](#) (2024). He is also the award's most successful composer, having won five times from thirteen nominations. ([Full list...](#))

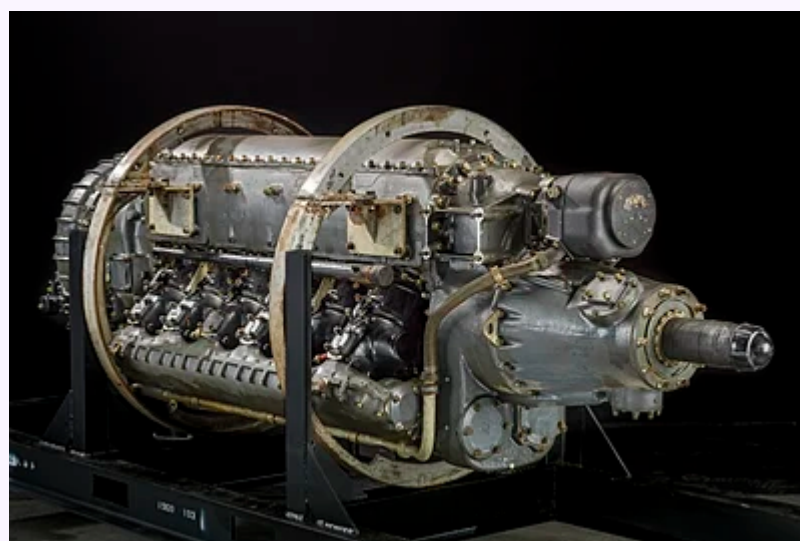


Bear McCreary

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Today's featured picture



The [Continental XI-1430](#) (often identified as the IV-1430) was a liquid-cooled [aircraft engine](#) developed in the United States by a partnership between the [United States Army Air Corps](#) (USAAC) and [Continental Motors](#). It resulted from the USAAC's [hyper-engine](#) efforts that started in 1932, but never entered widespread production as it was not better than other available engines when it finally matured. In 1939, the I-1430-3 was designated as the engine to power the [Curtiss XP-55](#), a radical [pusher-engine](#) fighter design that did not reach production. This I-1430-11 engine is in the collection of the [National Air and Space Museum](#) at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington, D.C.













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