NERO CLAUDIUS CAESAR AUGUSTUS GERMANICUS

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION, THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
It seemed like a good idea at the time in Rome, so Mark Antony and Octavian Caesar appointed their friend Herod the Great to be king of Judea.

At Tarentum a treaty was forged in which Antony and Octavian ceded the major islands of Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea to Sextus Pompeius as a “protectorate.” Octavian Caesar took as his wife Scribonia, a relative of Sextus Pompeius, with whom he would have one daughter who would be called Julia.

Antony returned to Athens with his wife Octavia, Octavian’s sister. His legate Ventidius restored order in Syria and Asia Minor. Octavia gave birth to Antonia Major, grandmother of the emperor Nero.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.
The “Julio-Claudian” series of emperors:

Reigned 41 years, from 27 BCE to 14 CE: Octavian (Imperator Caesar Divi Filius Augustus) was born at Rome on September 23, 63 BCE (C. Octavianus); died at Nola in Campania on August 19, 14 CE at age 77 from an illness.

Reigned 23 years, from 14 to 37 CE: Tiberius Caesar Augustus was born at Rome on November 16, 42 BCE; died at Misenum on March 16, 37 CE at age 77 from being smothered with a pillow while on his death bed from a terminal illness.

Reigned 4 years, from 37 to 41 CE: Caligula (Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus) was born at Antium (Anzio) on August 31, 12 CE; died at Rome on January 24, 41 CE at age 19 from assassination.

Reigned 13 years, from 41 to 54 CE: Claudius (Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus) was born at Lugdunum on August 1, 10 BCE; died at Rome on October 13, 54 CE at age 64 from eating deliberately poisoned mushrooms given to him by his wife Agrippina (Nero’s mother).

The last of this line, the emperor Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, reigned 14 years, from 54 to 68 CE. He was born at Antium (Anzio) on December 15, 37 CE; died at Rome on June 9, 68 CE at age 31 from suicide.

The next emperor would be Galba (Servius Galba Imperator Caesar Augustus), one of the military leaders who had revolted against the emperor Nero, who had been born near Tarracina on December 24, 3 BCE and would be assassinated at Rome on January 15, 69 CE at the age of 72 during a rebellion among his rivals (reigned, that is, for less than a year, from 68 into 69 CE).

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT
December 24: Servius Galba Imperator Caesar Augustus, who would after the forced suicide of Nero be for a year function as the Roman Emperor Galba, was born near Tarracina.
Chaeremon the Stoic, an Egyptian priest-philosopher, would be the tutor of young Nero (54-68) in Rome before he became Emperor. The Romans traveled restlessly in search of Egyptian education (magic, astronomy, medical and philosophy) both in Graeco-Roman east and in Egyptian Alexandria.

Nobody could guess what would happen next

Nero

“Stack of the Artist of Kouros” Project
December 15: *Nero Claudius Caesar*, who would become emperor, was born at Antium (Anzio).

He would be made the step-son of *Claudius* and would inherit the position of emperor (54 CE-68 CE). His victims would include his mother and his wife. According to Suetonius, Nero’s greatest ambition after becoming emperor would be to sing in public. He would take lessons, and make his debut in Naples. An earthquake would shake the theater during the performance but Nero would persist in his performance, despite the fact that much of the audience had evacuated the building. He is said to have reduced this sort of a thing as a problem during further performances by having the doors of the theater locked. He is said to have benefited from the Great Fire of Rome in 64 CE, by constructing for himself a grand new palace, the Domus Aurea, atop several of the seven hills of Rome that had burned over during this conflagration. He would survive a conspiracy in 65 CE and a military revolt in 68 CE before being forced out of Rome, and into eventual suicide by the Senate in 68 CE. His feckless administration would end the Julio-Claudian dynasty and the emperor to follow would be the leader of one of the military revolts, Galba, after whom there would be a fast succession of emperors until Vespasian would make himself emperor in 69 CE.
From this year into 54 CE, Claudius would be expelling SEPTUAGINT missionaries from Rome. At this point he was 34 years old. He had had three wives and none of his experiences with wives had been good. His previous wife, Messalina, had been not only unfaithful to him but had married another man in full public view while Claudius was away visiting the new port of Ostia at the mouth of the Tiber. Claudius had such affection for her that he was not moved to action, and it was his private secretary who gave the order for her execution. Messalina had been married to Claudius for seven years and had lived a full and very debauched life by the time of her death at the age of 23. Seneca the Younger was recalled from exile in Corsica and appointed to tutor Nero, son of Julia Agrippina, Agrippina the younger, by her previous marriage. Claudius married her during this year, adopting her boy as his own.

A general note about Julia Agrippina the Younger: She was one of the three daughters of Germanicus and

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1. “Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome.” — Suetonius, *De Vita Caesarum, Claudius* XXV. 4.
Being an ambitious and intelligent woman married to an emperor considered a weakling and somewhat of a
dunce by those around him, she naturally took the reins of power into her own hands. In 54 CE, Claudius would
die after being given a poisoned mushroom. Nero was only 17 and for the first year could not rule in his own
name. Julia Agrippina acted as his regent and was a powerful controlling influence on him even after he had
had his 18th birthday and could govern in his own right. For the first time in Roman history, a woman was
given the title of AVGVSTA, meaning “empress.” Up to this time, women of the imperial household had only
been portrayed on coins after they had died. With the help of his two closest advisors, Seneca the Younger
and Sextus Afranius Burrus, Nero began to undermine her power until she could do little more than complain. She
began to denounce her son more and more in public, and soon made a nuisance of herself. After the tension
between mother and son grew to a critical level, Nero determined to be rid of her. He was aided in making this
decision by the counsel given him by Seneca and Burrus. Tacitus tells us the story how Nero sent his mother
out on the Bay of Naples in a ship. An accident was to be staged in which part of the ship would collapse and
pitch her into the sea. The accident was bungled and she escaped with only a hurt shoulder. A woman friend
who had been with her was also thrown into the water. That woman made the mistake of crying out that she
was the emperor’s mother, hoping in that way to be rescued, but this tactic caused the ship’s crew to club her
in the water, killing her. When Julia Agrippina saw the ship’s crew clubbing the other woman, she swam to
safety despite the injury to her shoulder. She returned home, believing that Nero would not dare to murder her
now that so many people knew about the plot. Agrippina played it cool until the very end. Nero sent an ex-
slave and a group of naval officers whom he could trust to complete the foul deed to finish her off with clubs
and swords in her bed, to which she had retired to recuperate from her injury. This Agrippina the Younger was
hated and feared by many of the Roman nobility amongst whom she lived and, no doubt, many of them were
secretly glad to have her out of the way.
But the crime of matricide was perhaps the most despicable one in the eyes of the ancient Romans. Today, our
society looks upon child molestation as one of the most horrible crimes imaginable and holds the innocence of childhood to be inviolable. The Romans believed the home, hearth, and motherhood to be the very foundation of their society and honoring and protecting his mother were a Roman man’s most sacred duties. The Romans would tolerate Nero’s drunken revels and the wide range of his perversions and sexual appetites. They would even tolerate his brutality in dealing with his enemies, but they would never forgive a man who murdered his mother. Our society remembers Nero as a persecutor of Christians and a degenerate ruler, but it was the crime of murdering his mother that made it inevitable that he should one day be brought down. In 68 CE, the Romans had finally had enough of him and the Senate declared him a public enemy. Nero finally paid the ultimate price for his crimes by taking his own life while hiding in an ex-slave’s house as soldiers were at the point of arresting him.

44 Cæsar, the greatest of the Roman conquerors, after having fought fifty pitched battles, and slain 1,192,000 men, and overturned the liberties of his country, is killed in the senate-house.
35 The battle of Actium fought, in which Mark Antony and Cleopatra are totally defeated by Octavius, nephew to Julius Cæsar.
30 Alexandria, in Egypt, is taken by Octavius, upon which Antony and Cleopatra put themselves to death, and Egypt is reduced to a Roman province.
27 Octavius by a decree of the senate, obtains the title of Augustus Cæsar, and absolute exemption from the laws, and is properly the first Roman emperor.
18 Rome at this time is fifty miles in circumference, and contains 463,000 men fit to bear arms.
The temple of Janus is shut by Augustus as an emblem of universal peace, and JESUS CHRIST is born.

A. C.
12 JESUS CHRIST disputes with the doctors in the temple;
27 ———— is baptized in the Wilderness by John;
33 ———— is crucified;
His Resurrection and Ascension.
36 St. Paul converted.
39 St. Matthew writes his Gospel.
Pontius Pilate kills himself.
40 The name of Christians first given at Antioch to the followers of Christ.
43 Claudius Cæsar’s expedition into Britain.
44 St. Mark writes his Gospel.
49 London is founded by the Romans; 368, surrounded by ditto with a wall, some parts of which are still observable.
51 Caractacus, the British king, is carried in chains to Rome.
St. Luke writes his Gospel.
Seneca the Younger became praetor, and would marry a wealthy woman named Pompeia Paulina, build up a powerful group of friends including the new prefect of the guard, Sextus Afranius Burrus, and become tutor to the future emperor Nero.
The garrison town Ara Ubiorum, birthplace in 15 CE of Julia Augusta Agrippina (IVLIA AVGVSTA AGRIPPINA the younger, sister of the emperor Caligula, wife of the emperor Claudius, and mother of the emperor Nero), was designated as a Roman colony in this year in which she became virtually co-emperor with her husband Claudius. The town at the bridge over the big river was be known henceforward as Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium or Colonia Claudia Arae Agrippinensis or CCAA (the modern Cologne or Köln, Germany).

Recently I have visited the Römisch-Germanisches Museum in Cologne, just to the side of this big bridge over this big river, and was startled to notice that this museum which dealt with the Roman foundation of the city was paying precious little attention either to Claudius or to his wife Agrippina. When I asked a docent about this deficiency she treated it as a joke: her voice dropping to a whisper, she suggested that the duo might be present but “incognito.”

Perhaps it will sound harsh, even anti-German, for me to express the suspicion which I have since formed as to the reason for this most curious omission in this museum. As it happened, I came out from the museum onto the cathedral square of the city and was surrounded by people in motorized wheelchairs. They were the thalidomide babies, now middleaged, cruising around in circles atop these contrivances waving their little flipper arms. Stuck onto their wheelchair vehicles were signs expressing a considerable grievance against German society. Basically, translating as well as I might from the German, these flipper people felt that they were being ignored and disregarded by German society. This dual encounter with German society has caused me to notice, while in the airplane on the way home, that by the sheerest coincidence the emperor Claudius had been a cripple who stuttered (refer to the TV series “I, Claudius” based on the writings of Robert Graves).

The suspicion I formed is that the people of this German city have minimized this part of their history because, as Germans, they have an insuperable difficulty in conceiving of themselves as being in any relation with anyone who is deformed and challenged. The thalidomide babies were deformed and are ignored. Claudius was deformed and is ignored. It’s a German thing, you wouldn’t understand.
February 25: The Emperor Claudius adopted 13-year-old Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, a son of Agrippina the Younger, Claudius’s 3rd wife, from an earlier marriage.

Under the name Nero Claudius Caesar, the youth would follow Claudius as Roman Emperor.
Eunuchs have made themselves useful as concubines from ancient Greece to 19th-Century Morocco. Suetonius alleged that at some point the emperor Nero castrated and then proclaimed himself the husband of a boy named Sporus.

In the 5th and 6th centuries, Roman matrons of a certain age would sometimes take eunuchs, who offered the delightful potential of infinite foreplay, as lovers. The word derives from the Greek “keeper of the bed,” a primary employment for castrated men being to provide security for a harem. For the wedding of the Emperor Caracalla, a chorus of soprano singers would be specially prepared by Plautianianus, the father of the bride. He would seize young boys from well-to-do Roman families and have them castrated.

At this time a prophet out of Egypt gathered his followers about 30,000 people to the Mount of Olives to demonstrate that he could command the walls of Jerusalem to fall. Others suggest he intended to force an entrance into the city. At this same time the Roman Procurator Antonius Felix (52-59 CE) brother of Pallas ruled the entire country. He ordered his troops to deal with this imposter and 400 of the sect are killed and 200 taken prisoner. The Egyptian prophet however escaped. The Zealot leader Eleazar and his men who had plundered the country for twenty years are captured and sent to Rome as prisoners. Nero crucified the brigands, who were too numerous to count. Procurator Felix (52-60 CE) of Judaea in alliance with the priesthood throughout his reign had to arrest impostors and brigands on a daily basis and have them crucified. Felix is the brother of King Herod Agrippa II (60 CE). Near the end of his reign the alliance broke down in open quarrels. Galilee is under the governor Cumanus and the Samaritans are under Felix and these two regions are at war among themselves. Quadratus President of Syria had to be called in to establish the peace.

Eleazar’s band of Zealots being terminated did not stop the plundering as a new group sprang up called the Sicarii. They committed numerous murders in broad daylight and in the middle of the city. They mingled with the crowd during festivals carrying short daggers and stabbed their opponents. Jonathan, the high priest is one of the first victims. The secret sect was never discovered. In addition another rebel sect claiming divine inspiration incited a mob to frenzied enthusiasm led them into the wilderness. They believed God would show them omens of freedom. Civil war broke out in every part of the country as the people joined numerous sects and gangs throughout the country looting, burning and killing their fellow Jews.
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF

It was a marriage made in heaven — or, at the very least, in the palace. The Emperor Claudius gave his daughter Octavia (by his 3rd wife Valeria Messalina) in marriage to his adopted son Nero (offspring of his 2nd wife Agrippina the Younger, who would poison him, by her previous husband).²

April 11: The trial of Milo for the murder of Claudius began in Rome.

Tiberius Claudius Drusus Caesar, by C. Suetonius Tranquillus³

Towards the close of his life, he gave some manifest indications that he repented of his marriage with Agrippina, and his adoption of Nero. For some of his freedmen noticing with approbation his having condemned, the day before, a woman accused of adultery, he remarked, “It has been my misfortune to have wives who have been unfaithful to my bed; but they did not escape punishment.” Often, when he happened to meet Britannicus, he would embrace him tenderly, and express a desire “that he might grow apace,” and receive from him an account of all his actions: using the Greek phrase, “ο trosas kai iasetai,—He who has wounded will also heal.” And intending to give him the manly habit, while he was yet under age and a tender youth, because his stature would allow of it, he added, “I do so, that the Roman people may at last have a real Caesar.”⁴

2. I left out above that Nero would kill his mom. — Too many dependent clauses, or too much familiar murder or something!
3. THE LIVES OF THE TWELVE CAESARS by C. Suetonius Tranquillus; To which are added, His Lives of the Grammarians, Rhetoricians, and Poets. According to the translation of Alexander Thomson, M.D. as revised and corrected by T. Forester, Esq., A.M.
4. Caesar by birth, not by adoption, as the preceding emperors had been, and as Nero would be, if he succeeded.
Soon afterwards he made his will, and had it signed by all the magistrates as witnesses. But he was prevented from proceeding further by Agrippina, accused by her own guilty conscience, as well as by informers, of a variety of crimes. It is agreed that he was taken off by poison; but where, and by whom administered, remains in uncertainty. Some authors say that it was given him as he was feasting with the priests in the Capitol, by the eunuch Halotus, his taster. Others say by Agrippina, at his own table, in mushrooms, a dish of which he was very fond. 5 The accounts of what followed likewise differ. Some relate that he instantly became speechless, was racked with pain through the night, and died about day-break; others, that at first he fell into a sound sleep, and afterwards, his food rising, he threw up the whole; but had another dose given him; whether in water-gruel, under pretence of refreshment after his exhaustion, or in a Clyster, as if designed to relieve his bowels, is likewise uncertain. His death was kept secret until everything was settled relative to his successor. Accordingly, vows were made for his recovery, and comedians were called to amuse him, as it was pretended, by his own desire. He died upon the third of the ides of October [13th October], in the consulship of Asinius Marcellus and Acilius Aviola, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and the fourteenth of his reign. 6 His funeral was celebrated with the customary imperial pomp, and he was ranked amongst the gods. This honour was taken from him by Nero, but restored by Vespasian.

The chief presages of his death were, the appearance of a comet, his father Drusus’s monument being struck by lightning, and the death of most of the magistrates of all ranks that year. It appears from several circumstances, that he was sensible of his approaching dissolution, and made no secret of it. For when he nominated the consuls, he appointed no one to fill the office beyond the month in which he died. At the last assembly of the senate in which he made his appearance, he earnestly exhorted his two sons to unity with each other, and with earnest entreaties commended to the fathers the care of their tender years. And in the last cause he heard from the tribunal, he repeatedly declared in open court, “That he was now arrived at the last stage of mortal existence;” whilst all who heard it shrunk at hearing these ominous words.

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The violent death of Caligula afforded the Romans a fresh opportunity to have asserted the liberty of their country; but the conspirators had concerted no plan, by which they should proceed upon the assassination of that tyrant; and the indecision of the senate, in a debate of two days, on so sudden an emergency, gave time to the caprice of the soldiers to interpose in the settlement of the government. By an accident the most fortuitous, a man devoid of all pretensions to personal

5. Tacitus informs us, that the poison was prepared by Locusta, of whom we shall hear, NERO, c. xxxiii. etc.
merit, so weak in understanding as to be the common sport of the emperor’s household, and an object of contempt even to his own kindred; this man, in the hour of military insolence, was nominated by the soldiers as successor to the Roman throne. Not yet in possession of the public treasury, which perhaps was exhausted, he could not immediately reward the services of his electors with a pecuniary gratification; but he promised them a largess of fifteen thousand sesterces a man, upwards of a hundred and forty pounds sterling; and as we meet with no account of any subsequent discontents in the army, we may justly conclude that the promise was soon after fulfilled. This transaction laid the foundation of that military despotism, which, through many succeeding ages, convulsed the Roman empire.

Besides the interposition of the soldiers upon this occasion, it appears that the populace of Rome were extremely clamorous for the government of a single person, and for that of Claudius in particular. This partiality for a monarchical government proceeded from two causes. The commonalty, from their obscure situation, were always the least exposed to oppression, under a tyrannical prince. They had likewise ever been remarkably fond of stage-plays and public shows, with which, as well as with scrambles, and donations of bread and other victuals, the preceding emperor had frequently gratified them. They had therefore less to fear, and more to hope, from the government of a single person than any other class of Roman citizens. With regard to the partiality for Claudius, it may be accounted for partly from the low habits of life to which he had been addicted, in consequence of which many of them were familiarly acquainted with him; and this circumstance likewise increased their hope of deriving some advantage from his accession. Exclusive of all these considerations, it is highly probable that the populace were instigated in favour of Claudius by the artifices of his freedmen, persons of mean extraction, by whom he was afterwards entirely governed, and who, upon such an occasion, would exert their utmost efforts to procure his appointment to the throne.

From the debate in the senate having continued during two days, it was evident that there was still a strong party for restoring the ancient form of government. That they were in the end overawed by the clamour of the multitude, is not surprising, when we consider that the senate was totally unprovided with resources of every kind for asserting the independence of the nation by arms; and the commonalty, who interrupted their deliberations, were the only people by whose assistance they ever could effect the restitution of public freedom. To this may be added, that the senate, by the total reduction of their political importance, ever since the overthrow of the republic, had lost both the influence and authority which they formerly enjoyed. The extreme cruelty, likewise, which had been exercised during the last two reigns, afforded a further motive for relinquishing all attempts in favour of liberty, as they might be severely revenged upon themselves by the subsequent emperor: and it was a degree of moderation in Claudius, which palliates
the injustice of his cause, that he began his government with an act of amnesty respecting the public transactions which ensued upon the death of Caligula.

Claudius, at the time of his accession, was fifty years of age; and though he had hitherto lived apparently unambitious of public honours, accompanied with great ostentation, yet he was now seized with a desire to enjoy a triumph. As there existed no war, in which he might perform some military achievement, his vanity could only be gratified by invading a foreign country, where, contrary to the advice contained in the testament of Augustus, he might attempt to extend still further the limits of the empire. Either Britain, therefore, or some nation on the continent, at a great distance from the capital, became the object of such an enterprise; and the former was chosen, not only as more convenient, from its vicinity to the maritime province of Gaul, but on account of a remonstrance lately presented by the Britons to the court of Rome, respecting the protection afforded to some persons of that nation, who had fled thither to elude the laws of their country. Considering the state of Britain at that time, divided as it was into a number of principalities, amongst which there was no general confederacy for mutual defence, and where the alarm excited by the invasion of Julius Caesar, upwards of eighty years before, had long since been forgotten; a sudden attempt upon the island could not fail to be attended with success. Accordingly, an army was sent over, under the command of Aulus Plautius, an able general, who defeated the natives in several engagements, and penetrated a considerable way into the country. Preparations for the emperor’s voyage now being made, Claudius set sail from Ostia, at the mouth of the Tiber; but meeting with a violent storm in the Mediterranean, he landed at Marseilles, and proceeding thence to Boulogne in Picardy, passed over into Britain. In what part he debarked, is uncertain, but it seems to have been at some place on the south-east coast of the island. He immediately received the submission of several British states, the Cantii, Atrebates, Regni, and Trinobantes, who inhabited those parts; and returning to Rome, after an absence of six months, celebrated with great pomp the triumph, for which he had undertaken the expedition.

In the interior parts of Britain, the natives, under the command of Caractacus, maintained an obstinate resistance, and little progress was made by the Roman arms, until Ostorius Scapula was sent over to prosecute the war. He penetrated into the country of the Silures, a warlike tribe, who inhabited the banks of the Severn; and having defeated Caractacus in a great battle, made him prisoner, and sent him to Rome. The fame of the British prince had by this time spread over the provinces of Gaul and Italy; and upon his arrival in the Roman capital, the people flocked from all quarters to behold him. The ceremonial of his entrance was conducted with great solemnity. On a plain adjoining the Roman camp, the praetorian troops were drawn up
in martial array: the emperor and his court took their station in front of the lines, and behind them was ranged the whole body of the people. The procession commenced with the different trophies which had been taken from the Britons during the progress of the war. Next followed the brothers of the vanquished prince, with his wife and daughter, in chains, expressing by their supplicating looks and gestures the fears with which they were actuated. But not so Caractacus himself. With a manly gait and an undaunted countenance, he marched up to the tribunal, where the emperor was seated, and addressed him in the following terms:

"If to my high birth and distinguished rank, I had added the virtues of moderation, Rome had beheld me rather as a friend than a captive; and you would not have rejected an alliance with a prince, descended from illustrious ancestors, and governing many nations. The reverse of my fortune to you is glorious, and to me humiliating. I had arms, and men, and horses; I possessed extraordinary riches; and can it be any wonder that I was unwilling to lose them? Because Rome aspires to universal dominion, must men therefore implicitly resign themselves to subjection? I opposed for a long time the progress of your arms, and had I acted otherwise, would either you have had the glory of conquest, or I of a brave resistance? I am now in your power: if you are determined to take revenge, my fate will soon be forgotten, and you will derive no honour from the transaction. Preserve my life, and I shall remain to the latest ages a monument of your clemency."

Immediately upon this speech, Claudius granted him his liberty, as he did likewise to the other royal captives. They all returned their thanks in a manner the most grateful to the emperor; and as soon as their chains were taken off, walking towards Agrippina, who sat upon a bench at a little distance, they repeated to her the same fervent declarations of gratitude and esteem.

History has preserved no account of Caractacus after this period; but it is probable, that he returned in a short time to his own country, where his former valour, and the magnanimity, which he had displayed at Rome, would continue to render him illustrious through life, even amidst the irretrievable ruin of his fortunes.

The most extraordinary character in the present reign was that of Valeria Messalina, the daughter of Valerius Messala Barbatus. She was married to Claudius, and had by him a son and a daughter. To cruelty in the prosecution of her purposes, she added the most abandoned incontinence. Not confining her licentiousness within the limits of the palace, where she committed the most shameful excesses, she prostituted her person in the common stews, and even in the public streets of the capital. As if her conduct was already not sufficiently scandalous, she obliged C. Silius, a man of consular rank, to divorce his wife, that she
might procure his company entirely to herself. Not contented with this indulgence to her criminal passion, she next persuaded him to marry her; and during an excursion which the emperor made to Ostia, the ceremony of marriage was actually performed between them. The occasion was celebrated with a magnificent supper, to which she invited a large company; and lest the whole should be regarded as a frolic, not meant to be consummated, the adulterous parties ascended the nuptial couch in the presence of the astonished spectators. Great as was the facility of Claudius’s temper in respect of her former behaviour, he could not overlook so flagrant a violation both of public decency and the laws of the country. Silius was condemned to death for the adultery which he had perpetrated with reluctance; and Messalina was ordered into the emperor’s presence, to answer for her conduct. Terror now operating upon her mind in conjunction with remorse, she could not summon the resolution to support such an interview, but retired into the gardens of Lucullus, there to indulge at last the compunction which she felt for her crimes, and to meditate the entreaties by which she should endeavour to soothe the resentment of her husband. In the extremity of her distress, she attempted to lay violent hands upon herself, but her courage was not equal to the emergency. Her mother, Lepida, who had not spoken with her for some years before, was present upon the occasion, and urged her to the act which alone could put a period to her infamy and wretchedness. Again she made an effort, but again her resolution abandoned her; when a tribune burst into the gardens, and plunging his sword into her body, she instantly expired. Thus perished a woman, the scandal of whose lewdness resounded throughout the empire, and of whom a great satirist, then living, has said, perhaps without a hyperbole,

Et lassata viris, necdum satiata, recessit.—Juvenal, Sat. VI.

It has been already observed, that Claudius was entirely governed by his freedmen; a class of retainers which enjoyed a great share of favour and confidence with their patrons in those times. They had before been the slaves of their masters, and had obtained their freedom as a reward for their faithful and attentive services. Of the esteem in which they were often held, we meet with an instance in Tiro, the freedman of Cicero, to whom that illustrious Roman addresses several epistles, written in the most familiar and affectionate strain of friendship. As it was common for them to be taught the more useful parts of education in the families of their masters, they were usually well qualified for the management of domestic concerns, and might even be competent to the superior departments of the state, especially in those times when negotiations and treaties with foreign princes seldom or never occurred; and in arbitrary governments, where public affairs were directed more by the will of the sovereign or his ministers, than by refined suggestions of policy.
From the character generally given of Claudius before his elevation to the throne, we should not readily imagine that he was endowed with any taste for literary composition; yet he seems to have exclusively enjoyed this distinction during his own reign, in which learning was at a low ebb. Besides history, Suetonius informs us that he wrote a Defence of Cicero against the Charges of Asinius Gallus. This appears to be the only tribute of esteem or approbation paid to the character of Cicero, from the time of Livy the historian, to the extinction of the race of the Caesars. Asinius Gallus was the son of Asinius Pollio, the orator. Marrying Vipsania after she had been divorced by Tiberius, he incurred the displeasure of that emperor, and died of famine, either voluntarily, or by order of the tyrant. He wrote a comparison between his father and Cicero, in which, with more filial partiality than justice, he gave the preference to the former.
Nero got married with Octavia, the Emperor Claudius’s daughter.
October 13: In Rome, the emperor Claudius was fed some poisoned mushrooms by his wife Agrippina the Younger, and suddenly her son Nero was, at the age of 17, Caesar of the Roman Empire. He would get all carried away with this and kill various relatives including his brother, his pregnant wife, and his mother Agrippina. Nero’s two advisers would be Seneca the Younger and Sextus Afranius Burrus.

Now, the Romans could get with the idea of killing one’s brother, especially if he was an adoptive one rather than a blood kin. And, they could as easily grasp the need to terminate an inconvenient wife as they could the need to terminate an inconvenient pregnancy. But, there was something about killing one’s own mother, the person who had given one life, that just stuck in their throats. They wouldn’t ever be able to forgive their emperor after he had killed his own mom.

It was, likely, at some time during the reign of Claudius, that the Roman historian Quintus Curtius Rufus wrote (unless, indeed, he would write under the emperor Vespasian who would rule 69 CE-79 CE). Of his only surviving work, a biography of Alexander the Great in Latin in ten books, the first two books have been lost and of the remaining eight we have preserved only incomplete copies. This has been found in the personal library of Henry Thoreau, in a Latin edition HISTORIAE ALEXANDRI MAGNI ADIECTA SUNT SUPPLEMENTA FREINSHEMI. ED. STEREOTYPA EX NOVA TABULARUM IMPRESSIONE EMENDATISSIMA, prepared in “Lipsiae: Sumtibus et typis C. Tauchnitii” in 1829. The historical work of Quintus Curtius Rufus focused on Alexander’s character and offers precious little insight into geography, the chronology of the historical events, or the
military techniques that Alexander utilized.

Q. Curt. pag. 65.
Britannicus, son of the Emperor Claudius, was poisoned by the Emperor Nero.

Birth of Decimus Iunius Iuvenalis, according to the tradition:

“The precise details of the author’s life cannot be securely reconstructed based on presently available evidence.”

This “Juvenal” would create satires in dactylic hexameter. Their hyperbolic, comedic mode of expression make it quite impossible for us to rely upon any factoids which we are extrapolated. A biography that had by the 10th century become associated with these manuscripts, *Vita Iuvenalis*, seems little more than a series of extrapolations from the material itself. We are advised that his full name had been Decimus Iunius Iuvenalis, that he had been born in Aquinum, and that he had been a son, or perhaps an adopted son, of a Roman freedman of means. We are to suppose him to have been a pupil of Quintillian, who practised rhetoric into his middle age. We are to suppose that these satires for which he is remembered were produced at a rather late stage in his life, and that the period of this *floruit* was the late 1st and early 2nd century of the Christian era. He is credited with 16 known satires divided between 5 books.

- Book I: Satires #1, #2, #3, #4, #5
- Book II: Satire #6
- Book III: Satires #7, #8, #9
- Book IV: Satires #10, #11, #12
- Book V: Satires #13, #14, #15, #16 (incomplete)

We can trace to this source a number of well-known maxims, such as that the common people are influenced unduly by *panem et circenses* (Satire #10, 81), “bread and circuses” – which is to say, freebies and spectacle – in the constant struggle to maintain their liberties; that we ought to seek as our ideal *mens sana in corpore sano* (Satire #10, 356), “a sound mind in a sound body”; that a perfect wife is a *rara avis in terris nigroque simillima cycno* (Satire #6, 165), “a bird as rare to be seen as a black swan”; and that the most troubling political issue is always *quis custodiet ipsos custodes* (Satire #6, 347-48), “who will protect us from our protectors?”
Nero made his mom Agrippina the Younger shut up about his mistress, by offing her.

At the amphitheater in Pompeii there was a riot between Pompeians and Nocerians, followed by massacre.

The future is most readily predicted in retrospect.

"Stack of the Artist of Kouros" Project
59 The emperor Nero puts his mother and brothers to death. persecutes the Druids in Britain.

61 Boadicea, the British queen, defeats the Romans; but is conquered soon after by Suetonius, governor of Britain.

62 The council of the Apostles at Jerusalem.


Christianity is supposed to be introduced into Britain by St. Paul or some of his disciples, about this time.

64 Rome set on fire, and burned for six days; upon which began (under Nero) the first persecution against the Christians.

67 St. Peter and St. Paul put to death.

70 Whilst the factious Jews are destroying one another with mutual fury, Titus, the Roman general, takes Jerusalem, which is razed to the ground, and the plough made to pass over it.

83 The philosophers expelled Rome by Domitian.

85 Julius Agricola, Governor of South Britain, to protect the civilized Britons from the incursions of the Caledonians, builds a line of forts between the rivers Forth and Clyde, defeats the Caledonians under Galacus on the Grampian hills; and first sails round Britain, which he discovers to be an island.

90 St. John the Evangelist wrote his Revelation; his Gospel in 97.

121 The Caledonians reconquer from the Romans all the southern parts of Scotland: upon which the emperor Adrian builds a wall between Newcastle and Carlisle; but this also proving ineffectual, Pollius Urbicus, the Roman general, about the year 144, repairs Agricola’s forts, which he joins by a wall four yards thick.

135 The second Jewish war ends, when they were all banished Judaea.

139 Justin writes his first Apology for the Christians.

152 The Emperor Antoninus Pius stops the persecution against the Christians.
Sextus Afranius Burrus, one of the advisers of the Emperor, died. By this point Seneca the Younger had lost all influence with Nero, and obtained permission to retire. Nero, jealous of Seneca’s wealth, attempted to poison him. Nero divorced his wife Octavia and married his mistress Poppaea Sabina. Octavia was exiled and then murdered.

In his remaining years Seneca would write some of his better philosophical works, such as the 124 essays addressed to Lucilius, which are collected together under the title *Epistulae Morales*. 
Emperor Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus acted on stage in a public performance. The architect Zenodorus began an enormous bronze statue for him, the *Colossus Neronis*. The statue was intended to rival the famed Colossus of Rhodes. Pliny the Elder asserts that this statue was 106.5 Roman feet in height, which would be 30.3 meters. This is what it presumably looked like after the Emperor Vespasian has repurposed the monstrosity as *Colossus Solis* by adding a sun-ray crown, and the Emperor Hadrian had repositioned it next to Rome’s new *Amphitheatrum Flavianum* (which did not yet exist):

![Colossus Neronis](image)

The Roman-Paulists and Christians were already a considerable sect in Rome, and despised. They were spreading a prophecy of an imminent second advent of Christ and a worldwide holocaust. Suetonius, writing in 122 CE, would opinion that Nero had blamed a class of men, loathed for their vices, who the crowd styled Christians, for burning Rome. The term “Christian” would not be acknowledged in Rome, until 111 CE (by Pliny the Younger) and then 115 CE (by Tacitus). Tacitus says the Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, be sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilatus, and the pernicious superstition was checked for the moment, only to break out once more, not merely in Judaea, the home of the disease, but in the capital itself, where all things horrible or shameful in the world collect and find vogue.

Joseph Ben Matthias (37-100 CE) the historian went to Rome to obtain the release of certain priests who had been sent there by Procurator Felix (52-59 CE) of Judaea. On the way like Paul of Tarsus he was shipwrecked. He achieved his goal with the help of Aliturus and the Emperor’s wife Poppaea, who was God-fearing.

Gessius Florus, the Roman Governor of Syria, was determined to fan the flames of hatred into a blazing war.

July 18-26: A great fire that began in the *Circus Maximus* for six days ravaged Rome. Some blamed Nero, who in turn blamed the fire on the Messianic Judaism sects and so began their persecution:

> Therefore to squelch the rumor [that Nero had started the Great Fire of Rome], Nero created scapegoats and subjected to the most refined tortures those whom the common people called “Christians,” [a group] hated for their abominable crimes. Their name comes from Christ, who, during the reign of Tiberius, had been executed by the procurator Pontius Pilate. Suppressed for the moment, the deadly superstition broke out again, not only
in Judea, the land which originated this evil, but also in the
city of Rome, where all sorts of horrendous and shameful
practices from every part of the world converge and are
fervently cultivated.
—Tacitus’s *ANNALS* 15. 44; *MARGINAL JEW*; Meier; pages 89-90
It is noteworthy that Nero married Poppaea, a Judaean. Until this time the Jerusalem Community of James the Just, brother of Jesus Sects, Roman Paulists and the various other Judo-Messianic sects were still considered the same sect by the Romans. This growing Roman scorn was because these Roman-Christians and Paulists were waiting for the last judgment and failed to participate in political and social life of the Empire. The Roman-Christians and Paulists were rumored to hold orgies, killing small children to provide the blood and body they consumed during their services. Those Roman Messianic sects welcomed inferior beings, women and slaves into their culture and proclaiming all other traditions false. Beliefs became truths and became the basis for judgment of who is or is not civilized. The persecution of Judaism and Messianic sects in the Roman Empire would continue sporadically, often brought on by a calamity, such as an earthquake, flood, or even a loss in battle, for which the Judah Sects would then be held responsible. The Edict of Milan would finally be granted, in 313 CE, giving official sanction to Roman Christianity within the Empire. Roman Christianity and some other Messianic cultures like the Paulists would begin to merge and the Roman Christians would become essentially a New Roman Culture basically void of most Judah or Judo-Messianic traditions. Publius Cornelius Tacitus (55-116? CE) would write that the Roman Christian Sects were being severely punished not to protect public welfare but to satisfy the ferocity of Nero.

Publius Cornelius Tacitus (55-116? CE) would note, or would later be made to have noted, that Christus, the
founder of the named sect, had undergone the death penalty in the region of Tiberius, by sentence of the Prefect Pontius Pilatus (26-36), and the pernicious superstition was checked for the moment, only to break out once more, not merely in Judaea, the home of the disease, but in the capital itself, where all things horrible or shameful in the world collect and find a vogue. Simon Peter the Apostle who most likely died 64 or at the latest by 67 AD had urged the Gentiles to abide by Judah dietary Laws. Peter (died 64-67) accepted the correction and changed his ruling establishing the precedent that Church officials are not free from grievous error in matters of faith and morals. Peter was surely aware of the schism developing within the Judo-Christian community. It is also noteworthy that Peter never claimed to be Papa of Rome.

There is no evidence to support the claim by Irenaeus and Dionysius of Corinth in 170 CE that Peter visited Rome. The apostle Simon Peter was crucified in 64-67 CE on the Mons Vaticanus. Christianity was spreading from Antioch to Syria and Edessa, from Ephesus to Asia Minor and Gaul, from Alexandria to the south and south east of the Roman Empire, from Rome to Italy and Africa and from there to Spain. Constantinople became the center for the spread to the Balkans (Goths and Slavs).

Pliny the Younger would write to the Emperor Marcus Ulpius Traianus (Trajan) that fraternities were forbidden in Bithynia in Asia Minor, yet he arrested two female Judo-Christian deaconesses. It should be noted that female priests were fairly common in the early Jerusalem Judo-Christian Church sects. The Roman Christian Sect would abandon this practice and most Jewish tradition. Rebels killed the High Priest Jesus of Jerusalem (63-64 CE), hoping thereby to return the Priesthood to the House of Zadokite. Gessius Florus (64-66 CE) was appointed Procurator of Judea. He would improve upon the evils of Albinus by declaring that anyone might become a bandit as long as he received his share of the spoils. Many Jews fled the region to foreign provinces. During Gessius Florus’s procuratorship, 64-66 CE, the Galilean Sect (Zealots) began to go wild and revolt against Rome. Josephus the historian would suggest that Gessius Florus started the rebellion in Jerusalem when he ordered his soldiers to sack the upper market. About 3,000 men, women and children were killed. He ordered senior Jews with Roman status to be whipped and then nailed to the cross.
The funeral rites for Nero’s wife Poppaea at Rome consumed a year’s supply of cinnamon.

Lucan, born 39, Roman poet, wrote: “Pharsalia” (Civil War). A widespread conspiracy against Nero having been discovered, in this year many senators were being executed or forced to commit suicide. Revolts, conspiracies, and executions would continue until Nero himself would commit suicide in 68 CE.

After a fire broke out in Lugdunum (now Lyon, France) during this year, and after the troubles which would follow Nero’s suicide in 68 CE, Hadrian (76 CE-138 CE) would embellish this city and restore its monuments.

April 12: Seneca the Younger was denounced as part of the conspiracy of Piso and the emperor Nero ordered him to commit suicide.
Nero took a pleasure trip in Greece and attempted a canal through Greece’s Isthmus of Corinth, but didn’t do any of the digging personally and would soon abandon the project.

At about this point Nero was having an enormous statue of himself erected in the center of Rome. This statue would be known as the Colossus of Nero (after his suicide the face of this monstrosity would be altered and it would be redesignated the Colossus of Helios; the erection would then apparently lend its name to the nearby Flavian Amphitheatre, popularly known as the “Colosseum”; the statue itself would soon disappear but its ugly Roman concrete base would not be removed until 1929).

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT

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Nero
In Rome, Paul (10-67) the Pharisee-Christian alias Saul the Roman citizen, a self-proclaimed apostle, wrote 2 Timothy and the Letters to the Hebrews just before being put to death. His ship had been wrecked on the way at Melita (Malta) south of Sicily. The Roman Saul’s journeys spanned the years 46-62 (67?). It is noteworthy that there is no direct evidence that he was actually executed. Irenaeus and Dionysius of Corinth established this tradition in CE 170. Some suggest he is Saulus alias Paul who played a key role in the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem. If this is true it explains why the Paulist Church writings are strangely silent about his death or whereabouts after this time. Paul was alleged killed in Rome under orders of Nero.

Some say Paul was beheaded on the road to Ostia. Others suggest he escaped to Spain. At this time it is alleged that Linus (about 67-76 CE) was appointed by Paul as the first Papa of Rome and headed the Roman Greek Paulist Christian Church, rather than Peter as is commonly assumed. Simon Peter is never once recorded as Papa of Rome and likely only spent 3 to 4 years in Rome. Most evidence suggests that James the Just was Papa of the Christian Churches. The writings attributed to Saul comprise nearly 1/3 of the New Testament but were not edited and compiled until nearly five centuries after his death. Some suppose Paul to have been killed as being a member of the Roman conspiracy and revolution of 64-68 CE. Nero toured Greece executing conspirators. It is noteworthy that Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, makes no reference to Paul alias Saul but does speak of a Saulus.
June 9: Emperor **Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus**, who had reigned 14 years, had returned from Greece. When the Praetorian Guards and the Spanish and Gallic legions revolted against him, he had fled *Rome*. The Senate having declared him a public enemy, on this day he committed suicide and was resurrected as “Nero redivivus.”

Despite the fact that he was being hailed as a deity the Flavian emperors would proceed to erect the **Flavian Amphitheater** in an attempt to obliterate the Roman people’s memory of him. This would be a new use for the site of the artificial lake that had sheltered his Golden House, and was their way to give the site back to the people. It would not be until the Middle Ages that this huge amphitheater would come to be referred to as the **Colosseum**, and it would be known by that name by virtue of being named after the 120-foot Colossus statue commissioned by Nero that had been dragged by 12 pairs of elephants to the site. (There is little real evidence that any but an occasional Christian ever was put to death in this structure, it having not been erected until well after the final mass persecution.)

The new emperor, Galba (Servius Galba Imperator Caesar Augustus), would in short order be murdered,

then another new emperor Marcus Salvius Otho would commit suicide,
and Aulus Vitellius was killed before Titus Flavius Vespasian Augustus (69-79 CE) was able to prevail (hence this would be known as “The Year of the Four Emperors).

The enormous bronze statue of Nero created by the architect Zenodorus, the Colossus Neronis, that at 106.5 Roman feet rivaled the famed Colossus of Rhodes, would have a sun-ray crown added to it by the new emperor, Vespasian, to repurpose it as Colossus Solis (the Emperor Hadrian would reposition this next to Rome’s Amphitheatrum Flavianum):

The Senate was irrelevant during this period of civil strife. The Judah staged a full-scale revolution that required the attention of six Roman Legions. The Roman General Vespasian marched on Jerusalem leaving scorched earth behind him and driving the Zealots into Jerusalem. The Zealots turned against the hereditary Temple aristocratic and high-priestly leaders replacing them by lot with lowborn individuals. This stage of the rebellion represents the peasants against the aristocrats. The Judah Sects complained that the tax rate of 25 percent on top of the temples 22 percent is unacceptable. Civilis the Roman commander guarding the Rhine also rebelled against Rome in support of Vespasian. At this time Rome is gripped by a civil struggle between Aulus Vitellius and Vespasian who would become Emperor. Many outlying regions seized this as an opportunity to gain advantage. When Vespasian was chosen to become Roman Emperor, he returned from Judaea to Rome leaving behind his son Titus to continue the fight.
Dioscorides, who had been the Emperor Nero’s surgeon, praised cannabis (hemp) as making the stoutest cords as well as for its medical properties.
Reign of the emperor Commodus, who would “fight” in the Flavian Amphitheater (against sparring partners brandishing swords of soft lead). Eventually he would need to be strangled (and would be immortalized in the Russell Crowe film “Gladiator”).

Commodus had the head of Rome’s Colossus Solis bronze statue, which had represented Nero, replaced with one of himself (after his death the original head, and the sun-ray crown, would be restored):
The remains of Nero’s Rome-to-Naples canal were discovered.
As part of his prep for *Les Martyrs*, François-Auguste-René, vicomte de Chateaubriand, made visits during this year and the following one to Greece, to Asia Minor, to Palestine, to Egypt, to Barbary, and to Spain. His notes during his travels would be useful for *Itinéraire de Paris à Jérusalem*, which would appear in 1811, and the Spanish leg of the tour would inspire *Les Aventures du Dernier Abencérage*, which would appear in 1826. When he returned to France, however, it was to publish an attack on Napoléon Bonaparte in which the emperor of the French was analogized with the Emperor Nero. What France needed was the appearance of a new Tacitus, to write the history of such misconduct. — The emperor didn’t overreact, he merely banished this inconvenient author from beautiful downtown Paris, and Chateaubriand relocated to his modest estate “Wolf Valley” (La Vallée des Loups) seven miles south of Paris, at Châtenay-Malabry.

François-Xavier-Joseph Droz’s *Essai sur l’Art d’Être Heureux*.

“The Art of Being Happy” is fabulation, history is chronology.
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“It’s all now you see. Yesterday won’t be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago.”

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner’s INTRUDER IN THE DUST

Prepared: January 16, 2014
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.
Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology—but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.