

**TACITI ANNALIUM,  
LIBER XIV**

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Taciti Annalium, Liber XIV by John R. Worthington

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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS edition of the Fourteenth Book of the Annals is taken from the text of the highest authorities.

The Fourteenth Book has for many years formed part of the Classics at the Pass Degree Examination at Dublin University, and it is hoped this issue will be found useful to Degree candidates.

Containing as it does much of our early history, surprise may be expressed that this book is not more eagerly read at our Public Schools.

The style of Tacitus is often obscure and extremely terse, and requires careful reading; the main endeavours of this small work will be fulfilled, if it affords a slight assistance to the student, in explaining the sense of the difficult constructions, and in noticing a few of the chief incidents.

My best thanks are due to a college friend, Robert J. Doyle, Esq. (Sch.) B.A., Gold Medallist, for some valuable suggestions.

## LIFE OF TACITUS.

CAIUS CORNELIUS TACITUS seems to have been born about 51 or 52 A.D. It appears from Pliny that their ages differed by about 10 years (Pliny vi. 20, v. 8). Interamna has been given as the birthplace of Tacitus. This however is mere conjecture, arising from the fact that in the third century that town was the seat of the family of the Emperor Tacitus, who claimed to be descended from the historian.

He probably spent the early part of his life in Rome, as such scenes as Galba's death could only be described by an eyewitness, so great is the graphic power (cf. Hist. i. 40).

In Vespasian's reign Tacitus entered on public life. In 77 he was betrothed to the daughter of Agricola, who was then consul, and married her the next year. In 88, when Domitian celebrated the *Ludi Saeculares*, he was Praetor and a member of one of the Sacred Colleges. In 99 A.D. he was chosen with Pliny to conduct the trial of M. Priscus, impeached for extortion in Africa. With the vote of thanks from the Senate, we come to an end of his public life.

His chief works are: 'The Life of Agricola,' the 'Histories' (written before the 'Annals'), the 'Annals,' the 'De Moribus et Populis Germaniae,' and the 'De Oratoribus.'

His style is concise and vigorous, and pregnant with meaning.

The date of his death is unknown, but was probably shortly after A.D. 117, as he appears to have survived Trajan.





# TACITI ANNALIUM

## LIBER XIV.

1. Caio Vipstano, Fonteio Consulibus, diu meditatam scelus non ultra Nero distulit, vetustate imperii coalita audacia, et flagrantior in dies amore Poppæae, quæ, sibi matrimonium et discidium Octaviæ, incolumi Agrippina, haud sperans, crebris criminationibus, aliquando per facetias, incusare principem, et pupillum vocare, qui jussis alienis obnoxius, non modo imperii, sed libertatis etiam indigeret. Cur enim differri nuptias suas? Formam scilicet displicere et triumphales avos? an fecunditatem et verum animum? Timeri, ne uxor saltem injurias patrum, iram populi adversus superbiam avaritiamque matris, aperiat. Quod si nurum Agrippina nonnisi filio infestam ferre posset, reddatur ipsa Othonis

A.D. 59. cap. 1. *Nero, urged by Poppæa, contemplates his mother's destruction.*

*Scelus*, i.e. the murder of his mother (Agrippina).

*Coalita audacia*. Abl. abs. Long continuance of power had matured his boldness (coalesco, -alui, -alitur, 3 v. inceptive).

*Discidium*, -ii, n. (discindo) a divorce. Poppæa had no hope of marriage or of Nero's divorce from Octavia while his mother lived.

*Crebris criminationibus*. Besides (bringing forward) constant charges, i.e. incessantly reproaching Nero.

*Incusare*. In some editions

incusaret, subj. governed by quæ = quippe quæ.

*Obnoxius*. Subject, under the rule of.

*Indigeret*. Subj. of indirect speech.

*Cur enim, &c.* For why was her marriage delayed? Was it forsooth her beauty and her triumphal ancestors that gave displeasure?

*Fecunditatem*. She had a son by Rufius Crispinus.

*Verum animum*. She hints that Octavia had no love for the Emperor.

*Nonnisi . . . infestam*. Unless inimical to her son.

conjugio. Ituram quoque terrarum, ubi audiret potius contumelias imperatoris, quam viseret periculis ejus immixta. Haec atque talia, lacrimis et arte adulterae penetrantia, nemo prohibebat; cupientibus cunctis infringi potentiam matris, et credente nullo, usque ad caedem ejus duratura filii odia.

2. Tradit Cluvius, Agrippinam ardore retinendae potentiae eo usque provectam, ut medio diei, cum id temporis Nero per vinum et epulas incalesceret, offerret se saepius temulento comptam et incesto paratam. Jamque, lasciva oscula et praenuntias flagitii blanditias adnotantibus proximis, Senecam contra muliebres inlecebras subsidium a femina petivisse: immissamque Acten, libertam, quae, simul suo periculo et infamia Neronis anxia, deferret, pervulgatum esse incestum, gloriantem matrem, nec toleraturos milites profani principis imperium. Fabius Rusticus, non Agrippinae, sed Neroni cupitum id, memorat, ejusdemque libertae astu disjectum. Sed, quae Cluvius, eadem ceteri quoque auctores prodidere, et fama huc inclinatur: seu concepit animo tantum immanitatis Agrippina, seu credibilior novae libidinis meditatio in ea visa est, quae puellaribus annis stuprum cum Lepido, spe dominationis, admiserat, pari cupidine

*Ituram (esse).* She would go anywhere in the world.

*Periculis, &c.* And be also involved in his perils.

*Penetrantia.* Rendered effective.

*Usque ad caedem, &c.* The hatred of the son would harden his heart for her murder.

2. *Agrippina endeavours to regain her influence over Nero.*

*Usque provectam.* Went so far.

*Temulento.* To her intoxicated son.

*Jamque, &c.* And when kinsfolk observed wanton kisses and caresses portending infamy, it was Seneca who sought, &c.

*Senecam.* Depends on tradit.

*Deferret, i.e. told—warned—Nero.*

*Cupitum id.* Lusted for the crime.

*Disjectum (esse).* Was frustrated.

*Astus, -us.* Cunning, craft.

*Et fama, &c.* And popular belief inclines to it.

*Quae puellaribus annis, &c.* Who in her girlish years had allowed herself to be seduced by Lepidus in the hope of winning power, and with a like ambition had even given herself to the lust of Pallas, and had trained herself to every infamy by her marriage with her uncle.

*Lepidus.* He was her first cousin, as his mother Julia and