

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **AGRIPPINA THE ELDER (C. 15 BC - AD 33)**

Julia Vipsania Agrippina, mother of Caligula and daughter of M. Vipsanius Agrippa and Julia (daughter of Augustus). She married Germanicus around AD 5 and bore him nine children, six of whom survived infancy. She accompanied Germanicus to the Rhine frontier (14-16) and was with him in the East when he died (19). Widow of the popular Germanicus, and mother of four potential successors to Tiberius, she became a focus for senators who opposed the Praetorian Prefect Sejanus. Despised by Tiberius, she and her adherents came under attack in the late 20s, culminating in the arrest of Agrippina and her elder son Nero in 29. Convicted by the senate, Agrippina and Nero were exiled to the Pontian Islands, where they died in 33. Her younger son Drusus was arrested in 30 and died in prison in Rome in 33. Her youngest son, Caligula, survived her, as well as three daughters, Julia Agrippina, Julia Drusilla, and Julia.

### **AGRIPPINA THE YOUNGER (AD 15 - 59)**

Julia Agrippina, eldest daughter of Germanicus and Agrippina the Elder and sister to Caligula. She married Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus and bore him one son, Nero (the future emperor). She was honored along with her sisters Drusilla and Livilla during Caligula's principate, but was implicated in the Lepidus-Gaetulicus "conspiracy" in AD 39 and banished with her sister Livilla to the Pontine Islands. Claudius, her uncle, recalled her from exile in 41 and married her in 49. She quickly became powerful (with the aid of Pallas, Seneca, and Burrus), receiving the title Augusta in 50 and persuading Claudius to adopt her son Nero. She is reported to have poisoned Claudius in 54 so that Nero could succeed him. She virtually co-ruled with Nero during the first years of his principate, but fell from power when Burrus and Seneca turned against her. She was murdered on orders of Nero in 59.

### **ANTONIA THE YOUNGER (36 BC - AD 37)**

Antonia, younger daughter of Mark Antony and Octavia (sister of Augustus). She was the wife of Tiberius' brother Drusus and the mother of Germanicus. She refused to remarry after Drusus' death in 9 BC, but remained a wealthy and influential woman with a wide circle of acquaintances. She was instrumental in the downfall of the Praetorian Prefect Sejanus in AD 31. Caligula and his sister Drusilla lived with her briefly after the death of Livia (Augustus' wife) in 29. Caligula conferred many honors on her, including the title Augusta (which she declined). Failing to restrain Caligula's excesses, she committed suicide in 37.

### **CAESONIA (d. AD 41)**

Milonia Caesonia was the fourth and last wife of Caligula. Probably from a praetorian family, her half-brother Corbulo was Nero's renowned general and her niece Domitia Longina married the future emperor Domitian. Suetonius claims that Caesonia was neither young nor beautiful when Caligula married her, but that he loved her deeply and faithfully. Dio records that they had an affair before the marriage and gave birth to their daughter Drusilla a month after the marriage

(Suetonius claims that it was on the wedding day itself). Caesonia and her daughter were murdered along with Caligula in January 41.

#### **CN. CALPURNIUS PISO (c. 44/43 BC - AD 20)**

Gnaeus Calpurnius Piso, consul in 7 BC, proconsul in Africa, and legate in Spain. He was appointed governor of Syria (with its four legions) in AD 17-19, ostensibly to aid Germanicus who had been sent to the East with a general authority. Tacitus suggests that Piso had instructions to control or thwart Germanicus; in any event quarrels soon led to an open breach with Piso, who left his province in 19. Germanicus died soon after in Antioch, rumored to have been caused by magic or poisoning by Piso and his wife Plancina. Upon his return to Rome, Piso was prosecuted in the senate, but committed suicide (to protect his estate) before the verdict.

#### **CASSIUS CHAEREA (d. AD 41)**

Cassius Chaerea, a centurion with the army on the Lower Rhine in AD 14 and a tribune in the Praetorian Guard in 41. Mocked and insulted by Caligula, Chaerea had a critical role in his assassination. He was executed by Caligula's successor, Claudius.

#### **CLAUDIUS (10 BC - AD 54)**

Ti. Claudius Nero, son of the elder Drusus (Tiberius' brother) and Antonia the Younger, brother of Germanicus, uncle of Caligula, and fourth emperor of Rome AD 41-54. Claudius suffered from some type of disability and was excluded by his family from public life until his nephew Caligula made him consul in 37 (probably to emphasize the memory of Germanicus). Caligula nevertheless tormented him with practical jokes, as well as bilking him of large sums of money. Upon Caligula's assassination in 41, Claudius was proclaimed emperor by the Praetorian Guard. Some believe he was involved in the plot.

#### **CORNELIUS SABINUS (d. AD 41)**

Cornelius Sabinus, a tribune in the Praetorian Guard and, with Cassius Chaerea, a principal conspirator against Caligula. Upon the execution of Chaerea by Claudius, Sabinus committed suicide.

#### **DRUSILLA (AD 16 - 38)**

Julia Drusilla, sister of Caligula, second daughter of Germanicus and Agrippina. In AD 33 she married L. Cassius Longus (cos. 30) and later M. Aemilius Lepidus. Along with her sisters Livilla and Agrippina, she was honored during the early years of Caligula's principate. She was his favorite sister and there were rumors of incest. Caligula named her as his heir when he fell sick in 37, but she died the following year. Caligula decreed public mourning throughout the Empire and had her consecrated as Panthea. Her second husband Lepidus was involved later in a plot against Caligula and executed in 39. Caligula's affection for Drusilla was such that he named his only child after her.

### **DRUSUS THE YOUNGER (15, 14 or 13 BC - AD 23)**

Drusus Iulius Caesar, son of emperor Tiberius and Vipsania Agrippa. He married Claudia Livia Iulia (Livilla), daughter of the Drusus the Elder and sister of Germanicus. Drusus was a talented military commander, suppressing the mutiny of the Pannonian legions after the death of Augustus in AD 14 and campaigning successfully in Illyricum in 17-20. He was consul in 15. He was on friendly terms with his brother-in-law Germanicus, whose death in 19 made Drusus the certain successor to Tiberius. Drusus received the *potestas tribunicia* in 22 and a second consulship in 23 but then suddenly died. It was later alleged that his wife Livilla, mistress of Sejanus, had poisoned him. His son Tiberius Gemellus was killed on Caligula's orders in 37 or 38.

### **DRUSUS CAESAR (AD 7 or 8 - 33)**

Drusus Iulius Caesar, brother of Caligula and son of Germanicus and Agrippina the Elder. He married Aemilia Lepida, daughter of M. Aemilius Lepidus (cos. AD 6). With the death in 23 of Tiberius' son Drusus the Younger, he and his brother Nero became possible successors to their great-uncle in the principate. The Praetorian Prefect Sejanus worked against both of them. Drusus was declared a *hostis* by the Senate in 30 for machinations against his brother Nero. He was imprisoned in the palace in Rome and died of starvation in 33.

### **ENNIA (d. AD 38)**

Ennia (or Eunia), wife of Macro, Praetorian Prefect under Tiberius and Caligula. She was the daughter of Thrasyllus, scholar and astrologer to Tiberius. After the fall of Sejanus in AD 31, Macro and his wife gained considerable influence. According to Suetonius, Caligula seduced Ennia, with Macro's connivance, even swearing to marry her if he became Emperor. When Macro fell out of favor with Caligula in 38, he and his wife committed suicide.

### **GAETULICUS (d. AD 39)**

Gn. Cornelius Lentulus Gaetulicus, consul in AD 26 and commander of the legions in Upper Germany 29-39. His father-in-law Apronius commanded the legions in Lower Germany. A supporter of Sejanus (his son was betrothed to Sejanus' daughter), Gaetulicus survived his fall in 31 by declaring his loyalty to the emperor and suggesting (in a veiled threat) that as Tiberius retained his principate, he should retain his command. He was executed in the fall of 39 at the beginning of Caligula's northern campaign and replaced by Galba (the future emperor). Some believe he was involved in a plot with Lepidus to remove Caligula, others that he was simply removed by Caligula as too powerful. Martial admired his poetry.

### **GEMELLUS (AD 19 - 37)**

Tiberius Iulius Caesar Nero 'Gemellus,' one of the twin sons of Drusus (son of Tiberius and Livilla). Tiberius had made him joint heir with Caligula, but the senate annulled the will on Tiberius' death in AD 37. Caligula then adopted Gemellus and honored him with the title *princeps iuventutis*, but soon after put him to death in late 37 or early 38.

### **GERMANICUS (15/16 BC - AD 19)**

Germanicus Iulius Caesar, father of Caligula and the elder brother of the emperor Claudius, son of Drusus (Tiberius's brother) and Antonia (daughter of Mark Antony). He was adopted in AD 4 by his uncle Tiberius and served under him in Pannonia in 7-9 and Germany in 11. Germanicus married Agrippina the Elder, granddaughter of Augustus, who bore him nine children. He held his first consulship in 12 and campaigned along the Rhine in 13-16, where he quelled disturbances among the legions in Germany upon Augustus' death in 14. Tiberius recalled him to Rome in 17 for a triumph and sent him to the East with *maius imperium*. Coming into conflict with Cn. Calpurnius Piso, governor of Syria, he fell ill near Antioch and died on October 10, 19. His death provoked widespread grief and sympathy for his wife Agrippina and their children).

### **IUNIA CLAUDIA (d. AD 34/36)**

Iunia Claudia (or Claudilla), first wife of Caligula and daughter of M. Junius Silanus (cos. AD 15). Tiberius arranged their marriage in 33 (Tacitus) or 35 (Dio). She and her child died in childbirth in 36.

### **LEPIDUS (AD 6 - 39)**

M. Aemilius Lepidus, son of M. Aemilius Lepidus (cos. AD 6) and the last of his line. His stepsister Aemilia Lepida was married to Drusus, Caligula's elder brother. Lepidus married Drusilla, sister of Caligula, and was marked by Caligula for the succession. When Drusilla died in June 38, Lepidus began to scheme with Caligula's surviving sisters Agrippina and Livilla (and perhaps with Gaetulicus, commander of the legions on the lower Rhine). Caligula banished sisters to the Pontian Islands and had Lepidus executed.

### **LIVIA (58 BC - AD 29)**

Livia Drusilla, wife of Augustus and mother of Tiberius and Drusus (by her first husband Ti. Claudius Nero). Powerful as the wife of the *princeps*, Livia was named Iulia Augusta in her husband's will and was prominent in his cult. Some see her as a sinister figure, furthering the interests of her sons Tiberius and Drusus at the expense of the Julian clan. Her continued influence after the death of Augustus in AD 14 led to conflicts with Tiberius. She died in 29, but her will was ignored by Tiberius. Claudius deified her in 42.

### **LIVIA ORESTILLA**

Livia Orestilla (Dio calls her Livia Orestina), second wife of Caligula. She was betrothed to C. Calpurnius Piso (who later led the Pisonian conspiracy against Nero) when Caligula took her from the altar sometime before the end of AD 37. Suetonius says that Caligula divorced her within a few days and banished her two years later for rejoining her husband. Dio says she was banished within two months. Barrett speculates that she was divorced after two months for failing to produce an heir and banished later. The facts of this mysterious affair are probably irretrievable.

### **LIVILLA (AD 18 - c. 42)**

Julia Livilla, sister of Caligula, and the youngest daughter of Germanicus and Agrippina. Along with her sisters Agrippina and Drusilla, she received special honors from her brother early in his principate, but was banished in 39 to the Pontian Islands for adultery with her brother-in-law Lepidus (husband of Drusilla). Claudius recalled her from exile, but banished her again for adultery with Seneca.

### **LOLLIA PAULINA (d. AD 49)**

Lollia Paulina, third wife of Caligula, from high aristocracy, enormously wealthy and very beautiful. She was forced to leave her husband P. Memmius Regulus (cos. AD 31), to marry Caligula in 38. Caligula divorced her within six months, forbidding her to sleep with any other man. Paulina was later considered a suitable match for the emperor Claudius after the death of Messalina in 48. The successful candidate, Agrippina the Younger (Caligula's sister), had her banished and her wealth confiscated in 49. She later committed suicide.

### **LONGINUS (d. AD 41)**

L. Cassius Longinus, husband of Caligula's sister Drusilla. When Caligula assumed power in AD 37, he forced Longinus to divorce Drusilla, allegedly to live with her in incest. When Caligula heard an oracle shortly before his assassination that he would be killed by a Cassius, he had Longinus executed, forgetting that Cassius Chaerea also bore that name.

### **MACRO (21 BC - AD 38)**

Q. Naevius Cordus Sutorius Macro, Prefect of the Watch in AD 31 and Tiberius' agent in the overthrow of the powerful Praetorian Prefect Sejanus. Macro had befriended Caligula at Capri (allegedly conniving at Caligula's affair with her) and was instrumental in securing the loyalty of the Praetorian Guard and legions for his succession in 37. Having lost Caligula's favor, he and wife Ennia committed suicide in 38.

### **MEMMIUS REGULUS (d. AD 61)**

P. Memmius Regulus (cos. AD 31), chief supporter of Tiberius in the senate during the overthrow of Sejanus in 31. He was rewarded with the governorship of Moesia, Macedonia, and Achaia in 35-44. Caligula recalled him briefly to Rome in 38 so that he might give his wife Lollia Paulina to the emperor in marriage. It seems that he was rewarded with admission to the *Fratres Arvales*. He served as proconsul of Asia in 48-49 and remained prominent under Claudius and Nero.

### **NERO CAESAR (AD 6 - 30)**

Nero Julius Caesar Germanicus, the elder living brother of Caligula and, after the deaths of Germanicus in AD 19 and Tiberius' son Drusus in 23, next in the line of succession. Tiberius commended him twice to the senate, but Sejanus schemed against him, leading Tiberius to

denounce Nero and his mother Agrippina the Elder to the senate in 29. Nero was exiled to the Pontian Islands, where he committed suicide by starvation or was executed in 30.

#### **PLINY THE ELDER (AD 23/4 - 79)**

G. Plinius Secundus, prominent equestrian under Nero, Vespasian and Titus and a prolific author. He wrote the encyclopedic *Naturalis Historia* which has survived and a history of the Germanic wars in 20 books which has not. His *Historiae* (also lost) covered at least the reigns of Nero to Vespasian and was used by Suetonius, Plutarch and Tacitus. Pliny died evacuating survivors of the eruption of Vesuvius in August 79.

#### **PTOLEMY OF MAURETANIA (d. AD 40)**

Ptolemy, son of Juba and Cleopatra Selene (daughter of Mark Antony) and king of Mauretania from AD 23-40. He was summoned to Rome by Caligula in 39-40 and executed for reasons unknown. His kingdom was incorporated into the Empire.

#### **SEJANUS (20 BC - AD 31)**

L. Aelius Sejanus, Prefect of the Praetorian Guard under Tiberius. Of equestrian background, he served as co-Prefect of the Guard with his father Strabo from AD 14 and became sole Praetorian Prefect upon his father's appointment as Prefect of Egypt in 23. After the death of Tiberius' son Drusus in 23, Sejanus became exceedingly powerful. In a series of successful prosecutions he eliminated most of his opponents (who were also supporters of Agrippina the Elder and her family). When Tiberius retired to Capri in 26, Sejanus became increasingly bold, exiling Agrippina and her sons and seeking to marry Drusus' widow Livilla and thus enter the imperial family. Denounced by Antonia, Sejanus was arrested and executed in 31, along with his wife and children.

#### **SILANUS (c. 26 BC - AD 37)**

M. Junius Silanus (cos. AD 15), a prominent senator under Tiberius and a respected jurist. His daughter Junia Claudia became Caligula's first wife in 33 or 35. After she died in 36, Silanus continued to regard Caligula as his son. Caligula had him executed in late 37 or early 38, either because Caligula thought he was plotting against him (Suetonius) or because his constant advice annoyed him (Philo).

#### **THRASYLLUS (d. AD 36)**

Ti. Claudius Thrasyllus, Tiberius' astrologer (who may or may not be the prolific scholar Thrasyllus of Mendes from Egypt). When he faithfully predicted that Tiberius would be recalled from his retirement in Rhodes and named successor to Augustus, Tiberius took him to Rome with him, granted him Roman citizenship, and kept him by his side. Thrasyllus' daughter Ennia (or Eunias) married Macro and became the lover of Caligula.

## **TIBERIUS (42 BC - AD 37)**

Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus, son of Ti. Claudius Nero and Livia Drusilla and emperor of Rome AD 14-37. His mother Livia was divorced from Claudius to marry Octavian in 38 BC. Tiberius married Vipsania Agrippa, daughter of Agrippa, who bore him a son, Drusus Caesar. After the death of Agrippa, Tiberius was forced to divorce Vipsania and marry Iulia, Augustus' daughter and Agrippa's widow. After the deaths of Iulia's sons Gaius and Lucius, August adopted Tiberius in 4 BC, marking him for the succession. At the same time Tiberius adopted Germanicus, the son of his brother Drusus. Tiberius had received both the *tribunicia potestas* and the *maius imperium* and therefore was in full power at the time of Augustus' death in AD 14. Germanicus' death in 19 had left Tiberius' son Drusus as his sole successor. Drusus' sudden death in 23 opened the issue again and family rivalries and machinations by the Praetorian Prefect Sejanus led to the exile and death of most of Germanicus' remaining family members. After the death of his brothers Nero and Drusus, Caligula became the sole surviving son of Germanicus, and the only viable successor to Tiberius.