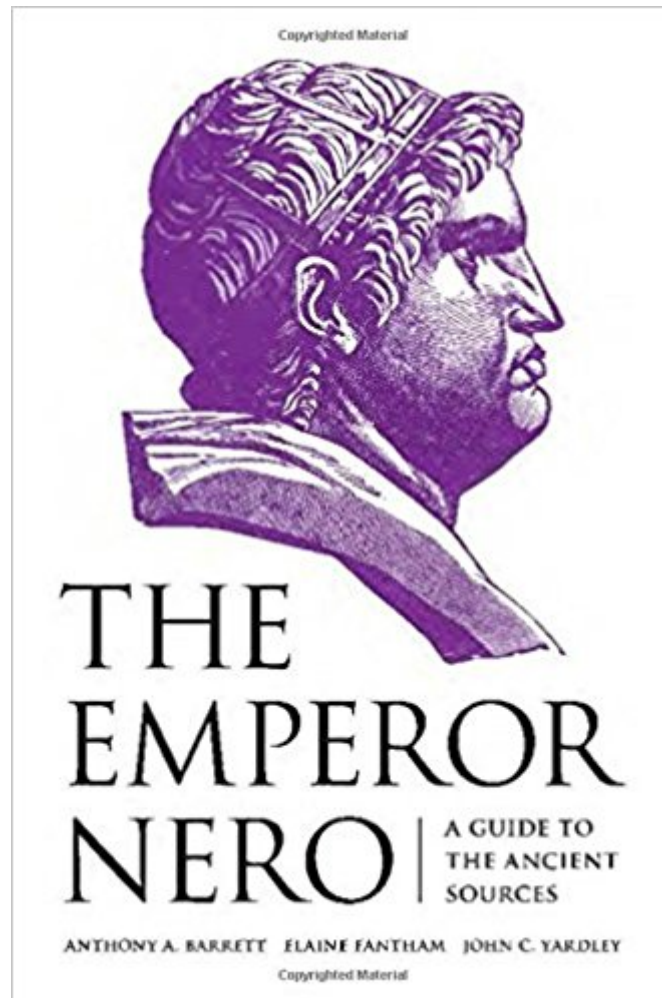




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# The Emperor Nero: A Guide To The Ancient Sources



## Synopsis

Nero's reign (AD 54–68) witnessed some of the most memorable events in Roman history, such as the rebellion of Boudica and the first persecution of the Christians—not to mention Nero's murder of his mother, his tyranny and extravagance, and his suicide, which plunged the empire into civil war. The Emperor Nero gathers into a single collection the major sources for Nero's life and rule, providing students of Nero and ancient Rome with the most authoritative and accessible reader there is. The Emperor Nero features clear, contemporary translations of key literary sources along with translations and explanations of representative inscriptions and coins issued under Nero. The informative introduction situates the emperor's reign within the history of the Roman Empire, and the book's concise headnotes to chapters place the source material in historical and biographical context. Passages are accompanied by detailed notes and are organized around events, such as the Great Fire of Rome, or by topic, such as Nero's relationships with his wives. Complex events like the war with Parthia—split up among several chapters in Tacitus's *Annals*—are brought together in continuous narratives, making this the most comprehensible and user-friendly sourcebook on Nero available.

## Book Information

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"The Emperor Nero is a guidebook to literary and primary sources on early imperial Rome that specifically relate to Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (37-68 CE), the final Julio-Claudian emperor. Classicists Barrett, Fantham, and Yardley divide the book into topical chapters covering subjects ranging from Nero's rise to power and foreign imperial conquests to

his personal life and palace intrigues."--Choice"A superb addition to current interest in Nero, not least because its authors form an all-star team for any study of Neronian Rome."--Lauren Ginsberg, Bryn Mawr Classical Review

"The most learned sourcebook I have ever seen."--Miriam T. Griffin, author of Nero: The End of a Dynasty"This extremely well-informed and judicious sourcebook collates the most important evidence on the life and reign of the emperor Nero. No one has organized this material in this way before and provided such a rich and accessible commentary on these difficult sources."--T. Corey Brennan, author of The Praetorship in the Roman Republic

This is the book I have been waiting for for the past 15 years! The authors, all eminent scholars and perfectly qualified for the subject, have compiled an impressive array of primary (ancient) sources regarding the Age of Nero, ranging from historical writings to inscriptions to poetry. The entries are all introduced so as to set them properly in their context, and the more scholarly footnotes routinely give me precisely the extra information I want. Please note: this is NOT a modern recounting or biography of the life of Nero. If you are new to Nero and just want to get an overview, this is not \*yet\* the book for you. This is a scholarly compilation of the classical primary sources so that the modern reader can discover precisely what our ancient evidence for this most (in)famous of emperors actually is. And this book accomplishes that goal marvelously. It is aimed at serious students and scholars, but the writing is admirably accessible to non-specialists, so if you're interested in what the ancients said about Nero and his time period, this book is essential reading.

What an irritating format. Less historical guide than scholarly exhibitionism. NOT readable for the average person.

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