

# Contents

List of Illustrations 7

Preface 8

1 Introduction 15

2 The Making of a Princeps 18  
*Nero's Paternal Clan – The Ambitions of Agrippina*

## PART I NERO'S PRINCIPATE

3 The New Ruler 37

4 The Golden Age 50

5 Partners in Power 67

6 The Turning Point 83  
*Signs of Stress in the Good Years – Ideological Tension – Attitudes to Claudius*

7 The Descent into Tyranny 100  
*The New Advisers – Personality and Principate – Bread ... – ... and Circuses – First without Equals*

8 The Tyranny of Art 119  
*Numismatic Innovations – Architecture and Town Planning*

9 The Artistic Tyrant 143  
*The Literary Renaissance – Neronian Patronage – The Theory of a Literary Opposition – The Emperor on the Stage*

10 'What an Artist Dies with Me' 164  
*The Pisonian Conspiracy – The Persecution of the Stoics – The Vinician Conspiracy*

## PART II POST-MORTEM ON THE FALL OF NERO

11 Why Did It Happen? 185

12 The Problem of the Succession 189  
*Nero's Rivals*

## CONTENTS

13	The Problem of Finance	197
	<i>The Augustan Pattern – The Magnificent Monarch</i>	
14	The Temptation of Philhellenism	208
	<i>Nero's Greek Tastes – Practical Benefits – Family and Imperial History – The Notion of Divine Monarchy</i>	
15	The Military Image of the Princes	221
	<i>Neronian Foreign Policy – The Pursuit of Glory</i>	
Appendix 1 Sources for the Neronian Material in Tacitus, Suetonius and Cassius Dio		
		235
Appendix 2 Nero's Later Coinage		
		238
Notes and References		
		240
Bibliography		
		303
Index of Persons, Human and Divine		
		311
General Index		
		318