

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (54 - 68 CE)

The 5th Roman Emperor

Was the only surviving direct male descendant of the emperor Augustus, through his mother Agrippina

Agrippina married her uncle, the emperor Claudius

Then she began to promote her son (Nero) to the succession, at the expense of Claudius's own son, Britannicus

Agrippina made it clear she wished to rule through Nero

but he used his advisors Burrus and the philosopher Seneca to govern

Britannicus (Claudius's own son) was poisoned by Nero a year into the new reign

However, the circumstances that surround Agrippina's death are uncertain as a result of historical contradictions

In 59 CE, Nero had his mother put to death

62 CE, Burrus died and Seneca retired

removing restraints to his leadership

Rome burned (64 CE)

many believed that he was responsible for the fire.

tried to shift the blame to a minor religious sect....the Christians

During the rebuilding of Rome he ordered the construction of a enormous, lavish, palace for himself...much to the disgust of many Roman citizens

Put down rebellions in Britain and Judaea

The revolts - in Britain (60 CE - 61 CE), led by Boudicca, and Judaea (66 CE - 70 CE)

Enthusiastic patron of the arts

included pantomime or solo ballet, poetry, and playing the lyre

His active pursuit of the arts contributed to his downfall

In 68 CE, the Gallic and Spanish legions, with the Praetorian Guards, rose against Nero

He fled Rome and committed suicide