The Power Struggle Between Agrippina and Nero

Beginning of struggle

- Agrippina played an important role in securing Nero's succession to emperor in 54AD, and gained power for herself through advising Nero.
- A Barrett suggests that, during this early stage of Nero's reign, she was 'arguably the most powerful person in Rome'. (pg. 150).
- Nero was firstly dependant on her, but the downfall of their relationship seemed inevitable.
- He no longer wanted to 'share' his position with Agrippina, and her smothering behaviour regarding his personal affairs only got worse when he begun a relationship with Claudia Acte.
- Tensions began to rise as she realised she was losing her position of power, and the struggle began, from 56-58 AD.

The conflict between Nero and Agrippina

- Agrippina tactically started to support Britannicus, leading Nero to poison him to eliminate the threat and did the following;
- Nero had stripped Agrippina of her powers over the course of the beginning of Nero's reign. And along with this was the removal of her guards (Tac. Ann. 13)
- Contemporary sources write about Agrippina's alleged attempts to seduce Nero in order to gain back her influence over him;

'Suggestively dressed and ready for incest' **Tacitus. Ann. 14.2.**

- Forced out of the palace and made to live in a imperial estate. (Tac. Ann. 13)
- Agrippina influence began to whine at the interjection of Poppaea (Abbot, 1853. chp 8)
- The poisoning of Britannicus—test done by scientist has been proved too contradict what ancient sources say.

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The death of Agrippina:

- Nero had started plotting for the murder of her murder after having removed her from power and the imperial palace.
- The attempted murder aboard the boat. Taking place off the coast of the Baiae (Suetonius, Nero. 34)
- Nero ordered her execution is a more private manner but still picked up by scholars.
- "Strike here" - Tacitus. Ann. 14.8—Truth of the moment?

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Conclusion:

- Despite the common theme within contemporary sources, Agrippina still maintained her influence over Nero between 56-58AD. These years even being hailed as his 'five year golden age'.
- However, there was a clear struggle for power between them, which can be seen as the ultimate cause for Agrippina's plotted death that allowed Nero to finally have complete power in Rome.

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