

The Fire of Rome– 64AD

Two thirds of Rome were destroyed in the 9 day fire that started in the merchant shops around the Circus Maximus. It was said by Tacitus that Nero blamed the Christians for the fire, leading to the first Roman persecution of Christianity. The fire spread due to the closely packed streets of this area of Rome. It is widely suspected that Nero caused these fires himself in order to remodel the city in a Greek style, and to place blame on the Christians.

Nero’s Performance in Naples– 64AD

In Naples, Nero would perform on stage– a keen, but untalented singer by all accounts, Nero would employ hundreds of people to sit through his set and applaud on command. He did this from a gigantic stone proscenium arch built in 64AD. This helps portray an image of Nero as a self-absorbed tyrant, the popular opinion of Nero that survives to present day.

Pisonian Conspiracy– 65AD

Named after its main architect, Gaius Calpurnius Piso, this Conspiracy against Nero was discovered in 65AD, and as a result, many conspirators of the Roman elite were executed– including the writer Petronius and the philosopher Seneca. The plot was an intended assassination, followed by Piso’s ascension to being Emperor. On the morning that the plot was to be carried out, it was discovered, and 41 conspirators were discovered.



Nero’s Death

Rebellion of Vindex and the Death of Nero– 68AD

Gaius Julius Vindex, Governor of Gallia Lugdunensis rebelled against tax policies set up by Nero in 68AD. Verginius was sent in to deal with the rebellion, and after the Battle of Vesontio, Vindex was defeated and commit suicide.

Eventually the Senate turned against Nero– and when reports of their intent to execute him, Nero attempted suicide, but lost his nerve. He instead ordered one of his companions to kill him, and so he did. Those sent to arrest Nero attempted to save his life but he passed away regardless. His last words were: “Too late! This is fidelity.”



Fire of Rome

Marriage, Death, Conspiracy and Greece– 66AD

In 66AD Nero married his third wife Statilia Messalina, who, after the death of Nero’s second wife, was forced to marry Nero after her first husband was killed to make way for Nero. She was one of the few who survived Nero’s reign.

Petronius was an advisor to Nero, and is believed to be the author of *The Satyricon*. In 66AD he was accused of treason by Tigellinus, captain of the guard, out of envy. He chose to take his own life as a form of execution.

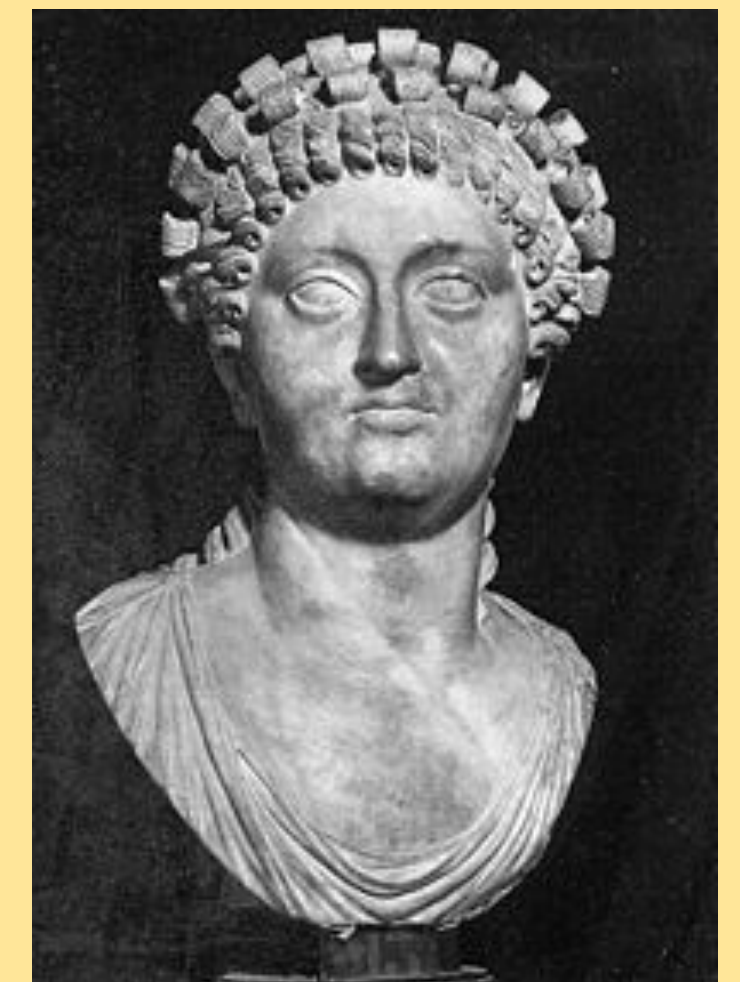
It is also worth mentioning Nero crowned Tiridates I the King of Armenia in this year.

Vinicianus, legatus of a legion stationed in Armenia. His brother was involved in the 65AD Pisonian Conspiracy, and in 66AD Vinicianus plotted against Nero, but the plot failed and Vinicianus eventually committed suicide.

Nero paid a significant visit to Greece during 66AD, where Greece had postponed the Olympic Games by one year so that Nero could compete.



Busts of Nero and Statilia Messalina



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