

1. *Octavia*, 682-9

Grauis en oculis undique nostris
iam Poppaeae fulget imago
iuncta Neroni!
affligat humo uiolenta manus
similes nimium uultus dominae
ipsamque toris detrahat altis,
petat infestis mox et flammis
telisque feri principis aulam

Look, oppressive to our eyes, now everywhere
the image of Poppaea shines next to Nero's!
Let a violent hand fling to the ground
Those faces, too similar to their mistress
and let it drag the mistress herself from her
high couches,
and soon attack with hostile flames
and bolts the savage prince's palace.

2. *Octavia*, 721-728

inter tubarum saepe terribilem sonum
sparsam cruore coniugis genetrix mei
uultu minaci saeua quatiebat facem.
Quam dum sequor coacta praesenti metu,
diducta subito patuit ingenti mihi
tellus hiatu; lata quo praeceps toros
cerno iugales pariter et miror meos,
in quis resedi fessa.

Among the terrible repeating sound of the
horns, my husband's mother, savage with her
menacing face, was shaking a torch spattered
with gore. While I followed her, urged by my
present fear, suddenly, split by a great chasm
the earth opened up for me; where, carried
headlong I see and marvel at my marriage bed,
on which I sat myself, exhausted.

3. *Octavia*, 792-99

Hinc urit animos pertinax nimium fauor
et in furorem temere praecipites agit:
quaecumque claro marmore effigies stetit
aut aere fulgens, ora Poppaeae gerens,
afflicta uulgi manibus et saeuo iacet
euersa ferro; membra per partes trahunt
diducta laqueis, obruunt turpi diu
calcata caeno...

From hereon stubborn favor burns too much
their minds, and drives them rashly, headlong
into fury: whatever images stood shining in
bright marble or bronze, bearing the face of
Poppaea, lie cast down by the hands of the
crowd and overturned by savage iron; the
limbs they drag in pieces, toppled by nooses;
they cover them, trampled, with vile filth.

4. Tacitus, *Annals* 14.61.1

Exim laeti Capitolium scandunt deosque
tandem venerantur. effigies Poppaeae
proruunt, Octaviae imagines gestant umeris,
spargunt floribus foroque ac templis statuunt.
itur etiam in principis laudes, repetitum
venerantium. iamque et Palatium multitudine
et clamoribus complebant, cum emissi
militum globi verberibus et intento ferro
turbatos disiecere. mutataque quae per
seditionem verterant, et Poppaeae honos
repositus est.

Then joyfully they climbed the Capitol hill
and finally venerated the gods. They pulled
down the statues of Poppaea, they bore the
images of Octavia on their shoulders, they
scattered flowers, and they stood them up in
the forum and in the temples. There was even
praise for the princeps among those repeatedly
worshipping. And now they filled up the
Palatine with both their multitude and their
cries, when a dispatched group of soldiers
broke up the disturbed crowd with whips and
drawn sword. What had been changed by the
insurrection was turned back and Poppaea's
honor was restored.