Tacitus, Tiberius, and Asinius Gallus

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Susan Satterfield, Rhodes College (satterfields@rhodes.edu)

1. Cassius Dio 58.3.1-2: Τῷ δὲ δὴ Γάλλῳ ὁ Τιβέριος, τῷ τήν τε γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ ἀγαγομένῳ καὶ τῇ περὶ τῆς ἀρχῆς παρρησίᾳ χρησαμένῳ, καιρὸν λαβὼν ἐπέθετο. ἐπειδὴ γὰρ τὸν Σεϊανὸν ἤτοι καὶ ἀληθῶς ὡς αὐταρχήσοντα ἢ καὶ τῷ τοῦ Τιβερίου δέει θεραπεύων, ἢ καὶ ἐξ ἐπιβουλῆς, ἵνα καὶ αὐτῷ ἐκείνῳ διὰ κόρου γενόμενος φθαρῇ, τά τε πλείω οἱ καὶ τὰ μείζω ἐσηγήσατο καὶ ἐν τοῖς πρεσβευταῖς γενέσθαι ἐσπούδασεν, ἐπέστειλε περὶ αὐτοῦ τῇ βουλῇ τά τε ἄλλα καὶ ὅτι τῷ Σεϊανῷ τῆς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν φιλίας φθονοίη, καίπερ αὐτὸς Συριακῷ φίλῳ χρώμενος.

Tiberius now seized the opportunity to attack Gallus, who had married his wife and spoken freely about the empire. For Gallus was at that time paying court to Sejanus, either because he truly thought Sejanus would rule someday, or because he was afraid of Tiberius, or as a plot to make Sejanus hateful to the emperor himself and ruin him. Thus he proposed more and greater honors to Sejanus and jockeyed to be part of the embassy. Tiberius sent a letter about him to the Senate that said, among other things, **that Gallus begrudged Sejanus his friendship with the emperor, even though Gallus himself had Syriacus as a friend.**

2. Bosworth (1977) 180: "During the twenties [Gallus] drew closer to the rising star of Seianus, participating in the attacks upon Agrippina and her faction. Finally he miscalculated, arousing Tiberius' suspicions by the very intensity of his overtures. It is even possible that Gallus' arrest marked the first stage in Tiberius' moves against Seianus. . . . The whole episode served as a warning to other eminent consulars not to attach themselves too closely to Seianus."

3. Seneca *Epistles* 55.3: Nam quotiens aliquos amicitiae Asinii Galli, quotiens Seiani odium, deinde amor merserat, aeque enim offendisse illum quam amasse periculosum fuit, exclamabant homines: “O Vatia, solus scis vivere.”

For as often as friendship with Asinius Gallus ruined some, as often as hatred of Sejanus and later love of Sejanus ruined others (for it was equally dangerous to have offended him as to have loved him), men were exclaiming, "O Vatia, you alone know how to live!"

4. Cassius Dio 39.26.1-2, on Pompey and Caesar: καὶ γὰρ ἐνόμιζε δύο τε εἶναι τὰ τὰς φιλίας τινῶν συγχέοντα, τό τε δέος καὶ τὸν φθόνον, καὶ ταῦτα ἀπ᾿ ἀντιπάλου καὶ τῆς δόξης καὶ τῆς ἰσχύος μόνως μὴ συμβαίνειν· ἕως μὲν γὰρ ἂν ἰσομοιρῶσί τινες αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐκείνας ἐρρῶσθαι, ἐπειδὰν δ᾿ ὑπεράρωσί τι οἱ ἕτεροι, ἐνταῦθα τό τε ἐλαττούμενον φθονῆσαν μισεῖν τὸν κρείττονα καὶ τὸ κρατοῦν καταφρονῆσαν ἐξυβρίζειν ἐς τὸν χείρονα, καὶ οὕτως ἀπ᾿ ἀμφοτέρων τὸν μὲν τῇ ἐλαττώσει ἀγανακτοῦντα τὸν δὲ τῇ πλεονεξίᾳ ἐπαιρόμενον, πρός τε διαφορὰς καὶ πρὸς πολέμους ἐκ τῆς πρὶν φιλίας ἀφικνεῖσθαι.

For he believed that there were two things that ruined friendships, fear and envy, and that only equal reputation and power can prevent these. For if men are equal in these, then their friendship fares well, but when one excels in anything, then the weaker envies and hates the stronger and the stronger looks down on and is insolent toward the weaker, and thus from both sides - with the one perturbed by his inferiority and the other swelled up by his superiority - they come to conflict and war in place of their former friendship.

5. Cassius Dio 43.12.1, on Cato and Caesar: [οἱ](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=oi%28&la=greek&can=oi%2816&prior=o(/ti) [τῆς](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=th%3Ds&la=greek&can=th%3Ds29&prior=oi() [ἐπὶ](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=e%29pi%5C&la=greek&can=e%29pi%5C17&prior=th=s) [σωτηρίᾳ](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=swthri%2Fa%7C&la=greek&can=swthri%2Fa%7C0&prior=(??)) [αὐτοῦ](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=au%29tou%3D&la=greek&can=au%29tou%3D15&prior=swthri/a|) [εὐκλείας](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=eu%29klei%2Fas&la=greek&can=eu%29klei%2Fas0&prior=au)tou=) [ἐφθόνησε](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=e%29fqo%2Fnhse&la=greek&can=e%29fqo%2Fnhse0&prior=eu)klei/as).

He begrudged him the glory of saving such a man.

6. Cassius Dio 51.12.7: [πέμψον](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=pe%2Fmyon&la=greek&can=pe%2Fmyon0&prior=e)pe/prwto) [με](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=me&la=greek&can=me2&prior=pe/myon" \t "morph) [πρὸς](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=pro%5Cs&la=greek&can=pro%5Cs2&prior=me) [Ἀντώνιον](morph?l=*%29antw%2Fnion&la=greek&can=*%29antw%2Fnion0&prior=pro\\s" \t "morph), [μηδέ](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=mhde%2F&la=greek&can=mhde%2F0&prior=*)antw/nion" \t "morph) [μοι](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=moi&la=greek&can=moi4&prior=mhde/" \t "morph) [τῆς](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=th%3Ds&la=greek&can=th%3Ds2&prior=moi" \t "morph) [σὺν](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=su%5Cn&la=greek&can=su%5Cn0&prior=th=s" \t "morph) [αὐτῷ](morph?l=au%29tw%3D%7C&la=greek&can=au%29tw%3D%7C1&prior=su\n) [ταφῆς](morph?l=tafh%3Ds&la=greek&can=tafh%3Ds0&prior=au)tw=|) [φθονήσῃς](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=fqonh%2Fsh%7Cs&la=greek&can=fqonh%2Fsh%7Cs0&prior=tafh=s" \t "morph).

Send me [Cleopatra] to Antony, and do not begrudge me burial with him.

7. Tacitus *Annals* 4.40.5: Vis tu quidem istum intra locum sistere: sed illi magistratus et primores, qui te invitum perrumpunt omnibusque de rebus consulunt, excessisse iam pridem equestre fastigium longeque antisse patris mei amicitias non occulti ferunt perque invidiam tui me quoque incusant.

Indeed you want to stay in that place [which you now hold]: but those magistrates and nobles who burst in on you uninvited and consult you about all matters do not hide their opinions that you long ago exceeded your equestrian station and surpassed the friendships of my father, and through envy of you they also accuse me.

8. Velleius Paterculus 127.1-2: Raro eminentes viri non magnis adiutoribus ad gubernandam fortunam suam usi sunt, ut duo Scipiones duobus Laeliis, quos per omnia aequaverunt sibi, ut divus Augustus M. Agrippa et proxime ab eo Statilio Tauro, quibus novitas familiae haut obstitit quominus ad multiplicis consulatus triumphosque et complura eveherentur sacerdotia. Etenim magna negotia magnis adiutoribus egent interestque rei publicae quod usu necessarium est, dignitate eminere utilitatemque auctoritate muniri.

It is rare that eminent men do not use great helpers to govern their fortunes, as the two Scipios used the two Laelii, whom they held as equals to themselves in all things, and as divine Augustus used Marcus Agrippa and later that Statilius Taurus. The fact that their families were not noble was in no way an obstacle to their being elevated to many consulships and triumphs and priesthoods. For great work needs great helpers, and it is in the interest of the state that those who are necessary for its use, be eminent in rank and that their utility be fortified by authority.

**Gallus' Actions in Tacitus' *Annals***

1. Gallus proposes that Augustus' funeral procession should enter the city through the Triumphal Gate. (14 CE, Tac. *Ann.* 1.8.3)

2. Tiberius claimed reluctance to take on all of Augustus' responsibilities and requested to share them. Gallus asked him what part of the State he wanted. He went on to explain that Rome could only be ruled by a single great man - Tiberius. (14 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 1.12.2)

3. Gallus proposed consulting the Sibylline Books after a Tiber flood. (15 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 1.76.1)

4. Actors were blamed for abusing magistrates and stirring up dissension, and it was proposed that praetors should have the right to flog them. Haterius Agrippa, tribune of the plebs and kinsman of Germanicus, vetoed the proposal, and Gallus attacked him violently in a speech. (Tac. *Ann*. 1.77.1-3)

5. After Drusus Libo’s alleged conspiracy and suicide, Gallus and three other leading Senators propose that gifts be offered to Jupiter, Mars, and Concordia, and that the Ides of September (when Libo died) should be a festival day. (16 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 2.32.2)

6. Gallus objected to sumptuary legislation because it would damage the *dignitas* of Senators. (16 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 2.33.4)

7. Gallus said that the Senate should not receive embassies in the emperor's absence, because nothing was worthy of the dignity of the Roman people unless it took place before the emperor. (16 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 2.35.2)

8. Gallus proposed changes to the praetorian elections. (16 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 2.36.1)

9. Gallus suggests that Sosia Galla - a friend of Agrippina, and wife of Gaius Silius - be sent into exile and half her property confiscated. This was an excessive penalty. (24 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 4.20.1-3)

10. Gallus suggests that Gaius Vibius Serenus be sent into exile on Gyarus or Donusa, islands without water. (24 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 4.30.1)

11. Tiberius complains of threats against him, and Gallus asks him to reveal his fears so that the Senate can have them removed. According to Tacitus, everyone knew Tiberius was referring to Agrippina and Nero. (28 CE, Tac. *Ann*. 4.71.2)

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