

“*Caesis nulla iam publica arma* Tacitus’ Cassius and Brutus” Handout

**Item 1: Velleius Paterculus & Cassius and Brutus the conspirators**

*Quo anno id patravere facinus Brutus et Cassius, praetores erant, D. Brutus consul designatus. hi una cum coniurationis globo, stipati gladiatorum D. Bruti manu, Capitolium occupavere. 2.58.1-2*

“In this year Brutus and Cassius executed that crime, they were praetors, Decimus Brutus the consul designate. These men together with a mass of conspiracy, with a force of gladiators of Decimus Brutus packed together, they occupied the Capitolium.”

**Item 2: Valerius Maximus & the parricide of the Liberators**

*M. Brutus suarum prius virtutum quam patriae parentis parricida - uno enim facto et illas in profundum praecipitavit et omnem nominis sui memoriam inexpiabili detestatione perfudit - 6.4.5*

“Marcus Brutus a murderer of his own virtues rather than a murderer of his father of the fatherland – for by a single deed he both threw headlong these [virtues] into the depths and besprinkled the memory of his entire name with unattonable execration –”

**Item 3: Tacitus & *Bruto et Cassio caesis***

*Postquam Bruto et Cassio caesis nulla iam publica arma, Pompeius apud Siciliam oppressus, exutoque Lepido, interfecto Antonio ne Iulianis quidem partibus nisi Caesar dux reliquus, posito triumviro nomine consulem se ferens et ad tuendam plebem tribunicio iure contentum, ubi militem donis, populum annona, cunctos dulcedine otii pellexit, insurgere paulatim, munia senatus magistratuum legum in se trahere...*

*Ann.1.2.1*

“After Brutus and Cassius were killed, there were no public arms, and [Sextus] Pompeius was crushed in Sicily, and after Lepidus was divested, Anthony was killed, and not even a general remained for the Julian faction except Caesar, and after the name of triumvir was put aside and bearing himself as consul and happy with the tribunician power for guarding the plebs, when he coaxed the soldiers with donatives, the people with the Grain Dole, and the rest with the sweetness of leisure, little by little he rose, and he brought into himself the official duties of the senate, the magistracies, and the laws...”

**Item 4: The opening line of the *Annales***

*Vrbem Romam a principio reges habuere: libertatem et consulatum L. Brutus instituit. Ann.1.1.1*

“From the beginning the kings held the city of Rome: Lucius Brutus established *libertas* and the consulship.”

**Item 5: *Caesis* in context (*Ann.2.75.3 & Agricola 18.3*)**

*Quo intemperanter accepto caedit victimas, adit temple, neque ipse gaudium moderans et magis insolescente Plancina, quae luctum amissae sororis tum primum laeto cultu mutavit. Ann.2.75.3*

“When this was received extravagantly, he [Piso] **slaughtered** victims, visited temples, not even moderating his joy and with Placina growing haughty more, who changed the grief of her dead sister for the first time into a happy garb.”

*Caesaque prope universa gente, non ignarus instandum famae ac, prout prima cecissent, terrorem ceteris fore, Monam insulam (cuius possessione revocatum Paulinum rebellione totius Britanniae supra memoravi) redigere in potestatem animo intendit. Agricola 18.3*

“And when nearly the entire people **had been killed**, not unaware that he should follow up his reputation and, according to how the first actions had turned out, terror would be to the rest, he intended to bring into his control the island Mona (Isle of Anglesey) (from whose occupation I remembered previously that Paulinus was recalled by the rebellion of all Britania).”

**Item 6: The funeral of Junia (Ann.3.76)**

*Et Iunia sexagesimo quarto post Philippensem aciem anno supremum diem expleuit, Catone auunculo genita, C. Cassii uxor, M. Bruti soror. testamentum eius multo apud uulgum rumore fuit quia in magnis opibus, cum ferme cunctos proceres cum honore nominauisset, Caesarem omisit. quod ciuilitate acceptum, neque prohibuit quominus laudatione pro rostris ceterisque sollemnibus funus cohonestaretur. uiginti clarissimarum familiarum imagines antelatae sunt, Manlii, Quinctii aliaque eiusdem nobilitatis nomina; sed praefulgebant Cassius atque Brutus eo ipso quod effigies eorum non uidebantur. Ann.3.76*

“And Junia breathed her last day on the sixtieth fourth day after the battle of Philippi, begotten from Cato her maternal uncle, wife to Gaius Cassius, sister to Marcus Brutus. Her will was in a great rumor among the crowd, because in her great riches, when she had named almost all the leading men with honor, she omitted Caesar. This was received politely, and he did not prohibit that her funeral rites were honored with praise before the rostra and with other solemn rites. Twenty ancestral masks of the most distinguished families were carried in front, Manlii, Quinctii, and other names of the very same nobility, but Cassius and Brutus were shining the greatest at that very moment because their images were not seen.”

**Item 7: Selected passages from Cremutius Cordus' trial (Ann.4.34-5)**

*Cornelio Cossio Asinio Agrippa consulibus Cremutius Cordus postulatur, nouo ac tunc primum audito crimine, quod editis annalibus laudatoque M. Bruto C. Cassium Romanorum ultimum dixisset. Ann.4.34.1*

“During the consulships of Cornelius Cossus and Asinius Agrippa, Cremutius Cordus was charged with a new and a first time heard crime, which in his edited annals and with Marcus Brutus praised he had said that Gaius Cassius was the last of the Romans.”

*Scipionem, Afranium, hunc ipsum Cassium, hunc Brutum nusquam latrones et parricidas (quae nunc uocabula imponuntur), saepe ut insignis uiros nominat. Ann.4.34.3*

“Never he named Scipio, Afranius, this very Cassius, this Brutus as robbers and parricides (which terms now are imposed), as often as he named them distinguished men.”

*Sed maxime solutum et sine obtrectatore fuit prodere de iis quos mors odio aut gratiae exemisset. num enim armatis Cassio et Bruto ac Philippenses campos obtinentibus belli ciuilis causa populum per contiones incendio? Ann. 4.35.1-2*

“But it was unbounded most greatly and without detraction to reveal about those ones whom death had removed away from hatred or partiality. Do I burn up the populace through assemblies for the sake of civil war while Cassius and Brutus are armed and holding the Philippian plains?”

*‘an illi quidem septuagesimum ante annum perempti, quomodo imaginibus suis noscuntur (quas ne uictor quidem aboleuit), sic partem memoriae apud scriptores retinent? suum cuique decus posteritas rependit; nec derunt, si damnatio ingruit, qui non modo Cassii et Bruti sed etiam mei meminerint’. egressus dein senatu uitam abstinentia finiuit. 4.35.2-4*

“Or can it be that those, who have perished for seventy years, in however way they are known in their images (which not even the victor destroyed), retain a part of memory among writers? Posterity repays his honor to each one; and they will not lack, if any condemnation assails, who not only will have remembered Cassius and Brutus but also me.’ Then after he had left from the senate he ended his life with starvation.”

### List of Abbreviations

CA

Classical Antiquity

CJ

The Classical Journal

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