

CSCP Support Materials

Word order and interlinear translation

for

WJEC Level 2 Certificate in Latin Literature
Unit 9542: Latin Literature Narratives

Theme A: Tacitus, *Messalina*

Summer 2014, 2015 and 2016

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Introduction

Important notice: only suitable for WJEC Level 2 Unit 9542 Narrative A 2014-2016

This booklet is designed to help only students who are preparing for **Theme A** (Tacitus, *Messalina*) of **Unit 9542** 'Latin Literature Narratives' of the WJEC **Level 2** Certificate in Latin Literature examination, **Summer 2014, 2015 or 2016**.

Students preparing for the Level 1 Certificate in Latin Literature should use the corresponding booklet for that examination, which is also available free of charge on the CSCP website.

If you are preparing for Narrative B (Ovid, *Metamorphoses*) or for examination in any other year, **do not** use these materials - they will not be relevant to your studies.

About this booklet

This booklet has been written to help you work out a translation of the extracts set for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 examinations. It is intended primarily for schools to give to students as a revision aid; students who may be learning Latin on their own; students on short courses who have to do much of the work on their own; students being taught privately and requiring additional material and students wishing to supplement the support materials provided by their school.

The booklet contains three versions of the prescribed literature. The first version has a numbered word order above the Latin text, the second has English meanings above the Latin and the third version has both a word order and English meanings. The three versions of the Latin are followed by the translation which results from combining the word order with the meanings given.

How to use this booklet

There are many ways to translate the literature set for the examination. The word order, meanings and translations provided in this booklet are just some examples. You may already have studied the literature in class or at home and created different, perhaps better, translations than those provided here. If so, choose your preferred translations from the options available to you. The translations provided here are neither definitive nor official versions. The authors and publishers of this booklet have no formal connection with the examining team and the translations included should not be regarded as any better than translations you may have created.

Although we have included a word order above the Latin to help you translate the Latin into English, always remember that Roman authors took great care to place their words in the order they did. The original order of the words contributes greatly to the meaning contained in the literature - meaning is conveyed not only in what is said, but in how the author says it. Therefore, first work out or revise the meaning of the Latin using the word order provided here, studying one sentence at a time and running over the sentence three or four times. Then try to translate the sentence without any support, using a blank copy of the passage (also available from the CSCP website). Study about ten to twelve lines at a time in this way. Once you understand how the Latin can be translated, return to the Latin text and look at the original order of the Latin words carefully to study how the meaning is enhanced by the original word order.

From time to time within the word order it has been necessary to show where one count ends and another begins. To do this we have used the | symbol. The use of italics within a translation indicates English words added to create a more natural translation.

Additional support online

All the literature in this booklet is also available online in 'exploring' format. This allows you to click any word and see the meaning of that word instantly. A grammatical analysis of the word in its context is also provided. You will also find 'Listen to' activities, where you can hear the literature read aloud, interactive activities and many carefully selected web-links for each selection in the prescribed literature. All the resources are available free of charge at www.CambridgeSCP.com (select 'Public Examinations' from the choices on the Main Entrance).

Students preparing for other WJEC Latin qualifications may also wish to take advantage of other materials online, such as vocabulary testers. The materials are housed in the 'Public Examinations' area of the www.CambridgeSCP.com website.

Messalina I

Messalina I (numbered)

1 3 4 5 6 7 2= 1 4
Messalina novo et quasi insano amore incensa est. nam in
5 6 9 8 7 3 2 10
C. Silium, iuventutis Romanae pulcherrimum, ita exarserat ut
12 13 14 15 16 17
luniam Silanam, nobilem feminam, matrimonio eius
11 21 18 20 19 1 3 5
exturbaret liberoque adultero potiretur. neque Silius flagitii
6 7 4 2 | 1 2 5 3 4
aut periculi nescius erat: sed intellexit exitium, si abnueret,
6 7 8 9 10 12 15 14
fore certum et, si consentiret, nonnullam facinoris celandi
13 11 | 2 1 3 5 6 4 | 1
spem esse; simulque se magna praemia accepturum. igitur
2 3 4 6 5 1 4 5
placuit negligere futura praesentibus frui. illa non furtim
6 8 7 9 2 3 | 2
sed multis cum comitibus ventitat domum, egredienti
1 | 1 2 4 3 | 1 2 3
adhaeret, dat opes honoresque; postremo servi, liberti,
4 5 8 9 6 7 1
paratus principis apud adulterum saepe videbantur. at
2 6 5 3 4
Claudius matrimonii sui erat ignarus.

5

10

Messalina I (with translation)

Messalina with new and almost mad love burned For for
Messalina novo et quasi insano amore incensa est. nam in

Gaius Silius youth of Roman the most handsome so ... inflamed that she had been
C. Silius, iuventutis Romanae pulcherrimum, ita exarserat ut

Junia Silana noble woman of marriage with him
Iuniam Silanam, nobilem feminam, matrimonio eius

she drove ... out unencumbered and adulterer had nor Silius of the scandal
exturbaret liberoque adultero potiretur. neque Silius flagitii

or danger unaware was But he understood death if he refused
aut periculi nescius erat: sed intellexit exitium, si abnueret,

would be certain and if he agreed some crime of hiding
fore certum et, si consentiret, nonnullam facinoris celandi

at the same
hope was time and he great rewards would receive Therefore
spem esse; simulque se magna praemia accepturum. igitur

he decided to ignore future present to enjoy She not secretly
placuit neglegere futura praesentibus frui. illa non furtim

but many with companions repeatedly to his house when he goes out comes
sed multis cum comitibus ventitat domum, egredienti

she is always she
with gives money honours and finally slaves freedmen
adhaeret, dat opes honoresque; postremo servi, liberti,

at the house
belongings of the emperor of lover often were ... seen But
paratus principis apud adulterum saepe videbantur. at

Claudius marriage of his was unaware
Claudius matrimonii sui erat ignarus.

5

10

Messalina I (translation)

Messalina burned with new and almost mad love. For she had been so inflamed *with love* for Gaius Silius, the most handsome of Roman youth, that she drove Junia Silana, a noble woman, out of marriage with him and had an adulterer *who was* unencumbered. Nor was Silius unaware of the scandal or danger: but he understood that, if he refused, death would be certain and, if he agreed, there was some hope of hiding the crime; and at the same time he would receive great rewards. Therefore he decided to ignore the future *and* enjoy the present. She comes repeatedly to his house, not secretly but with many companions, she is always with *him* when he goes out, she gives him money and honours; finally the slaves, freedmen, belongings of the emperor were often seen at the house of her lover. But Claudius was unaware of *the state* of his marriage.

Messalina II

Messalina II (numbered)

1 2 3 4 5 7 8
iam Messalina propter facilitatem adulteriorum ad novas
9 6= 1 2 3 4 5 8 7
libidines versa est. Silius, sive fatali insania an ipsa pericula
9 10 11 6 14
remedium imminentium periculorum ratus, abrumpi
13 12 1 2 3 4
dissimulationem urgebat: quippe non exspectandum, dum
5 6 1 2 3 5 6
princeps senesceret. se caelibem, orbem, nuptiis et
7 8 4 1 4
adoptando Britannico paratum. eandem Messalinae
2 3= 5 6 7 8
potentiam mansuram esse, addita securitate, si praevenirent
9 10 13 12 14 16 17 15 11
Claudium, qui insidiis incautus sed ad iram celer esset.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Messalina, non amore in maritum, sed verita ne Silius
11 10 13 12 15 14 | 1 2
summa adeptus se sperneret, diu haesitavit; sed tandem
3 3 1 4 2 5
persuasum. nomen enim matrimonii concupivit ob
6 7 2 3 1 4 5
magnitudinem infamiae. nec ultra morata quam dum
10 9 6 8 7 12
sacrificii gratia Claudius Ostiam proficisceretur, cuncta
14 13 11
nuptiarum sollemnia celebrat.

5

10

Messalina II (with translation)

Now Messalina because of ease of adultery to new
iam Messalina propter facilitatem adulteriorum ad novas

pleasures turned Silius whether because of predestined madness or themselves dangers
libidines versa est. Silius, sive fatali insania an ipsa pericula

cure for the threatening dangers thinking be thrown off
remedium imminentium periculorum ratus, abrumpi

concealment was insisting indeed not necessary to wait for
dissimulationem urgebat: quippe non exspectandum, dum

emperor to grow old himself unmarried childless for marriage and
princeps senesceret. se caelibem, orbem, nuptiis et

5

to adopt Britannicus prepared same for Messalina
adoptando Britannico paratum. eandem Messalinae

power would remain with added security if they forestalled
potentiam mansuram esse, addita securitate, si praevenirent

Claudius who plot unsuspecting but to anger quick was
Claudium, qui insidiis incautus sed ad iram celer esset.

Messalina not because of love for husband but fearing that Silius
Messalina, non amore in maritum, sed verita ne Silius

supreme having for a long
power obtained her might reject time hesitated But at last
summa adeptus se sperneret, diu haesitavit; sed tandem

10

she was persuaded name For of marriage she longed for because of
persuasum. nomen enim matrimonii concupivit ob

magnitude of outrageousness no longer Having delayed than until
magnitudinem infamiae. nec ultra morata quam dum

for the
of sacrifice purpose Claudius to Ostia set out all
sacrificii gratia Claudius Ostiam proficisceretur, cuncta

of marriage ceremonies she celebrates
nuptiarum sollemnia celebrat.

10 9 6 8 7 12
of sacrifice for the Claudius to Ostia set out all
sacrificii gratia Claudius Ostiam proficisceretur, cuncta

14 13 11
of marriage ceremonies she celebrates
nuptiarum sollemnia celebrat.

Messalina II (translation)

Now Messalina, because of the ease of her adultery, turned to new pleasures. Silius, whether because of (*lit.* from) predestined madness or thinking that dangers themselves were a cure for (*lit.* of) the threatening dangers, was insisting that concealment be thrown off. Indeed *it was* not necessary to wait for the emperor to grow old (*lit.* until the emperor grew old). He himself was unmarried, childless and prepared for marriage and to adopt Britannicus. The same power would remain for Messalina, with added security, if they forestalled Claudius, who was not suspicious of a plot but was quick to anger. Messalina, not because of love for her husband, but fearing that Silius, having obtained supreme power, might reject her, hesitated for a long time. But finally she was persuaded. For she longed for the name of marriage, because of the magnitude of its outrageousness. Having waited only long enough for Claudius to set out to Ostia to make a sacrifice (*lit.* Having delayed no longer than until Claudius set out to Ostia for the purpose of a sacrifice), she celebrates all the ceremonies of marriage.

Messalina
III

Messalina III (numbered)

1 3 4 2 8 9 5
id certe fabulosum videbitur tantum securitatis ullis
6 7 10 11 13 12 14 16 15
mortalibus fuisse in civitate omnium gnara et nihil tacente;
1 4 5 7 8 9
nedum consulem designatum cum uxore principis,
2 3 14 15 16 17 10
praedicta die, eis qui obsignarent adstantibus, velut
12 13 11 6 | 1 4
suscipiendorum liberorum causa convenisse; atque illos 5
2 3 6 7 5 9 10
sacrificiis perfectis inter convivas discubuisse, oscula et
11 8 14 12 13 14
complexus dedisse, noctem denique egisse licentia
15 3 1 2 5 4 6 8
coniugali. nihil tamen composui miraculi causa, sed audita
10 9 11 12 7
scriptaque a senioribus tradam.

Messalina III (with translation)

It certainly incredible will ... seem so much recklessness any
id certe fabulosum videbitur tantum securitatis ullis

mortals possessed in city of everything aware and nothing silent about
mortalibus fuisse in civitate omnium gnara et nihil tacente;

Not only that consul designate with wife of the emperor
nedum consulem designatum cum uxore principis,

on the with were to be
prearranged day those who witnesses standing by as though
praedicta die, eis qui obsignent adstantibus, velut

of raising children for the purpose joined in marriage and they
suscipiendorum liberorum causa convenisse; atque illos

with sacrifices finished among guests reclined at table kisses and
sacrificiis perfectis inter convivas discubuisse, oscula et

embraces exchanged night finally spent in the way permitted
complexus dedisse, noctem denique egisse licentia

to a married couple nothing Yet I have written amazing for the sake of things but heard
coniugali. nihil tamen composui miraculi causa, sed audita

written and by earlier generations I shall relate
scriptaque a senioribus tradam.

5

Messalina III (with numbered translation)

1 3 4 2 8 9 5
It certainly incredible will ... seem so much recklessness any
id certe fabulosum videbitur tantum securitatis ullis

6 7 10 11 13 12 14 16 15
mortals possessed in city of everything aware and nothing silent about
mortalibus fuisse in civitate omnium gnara et nihil tacente;

1 4 5 7 8 9
Not only that consul designate with wife of the emperor
nedum consulem designatum cum uxore principis,

2 3 14 15 16 17 10
on the with those who were to be standing by as though
prearranged day those who witnesses as though
praedicta die, eis qui obsignant adstantibus, velut

12 13 11 6 | 1 4
of raising children for the purpose joined in marriage and they
suscipiendorum liberorum causa convenisse; atque illos

2 3 6 7 5 9 10
with sacrifices finished among guests reclined at table kisses and
sacrificiis perfectis inter convivas discubuisse, oscula et

11 8 14 12 13 14
embraces exchanged night finally spent in the way permitted
complexus dedisse, noctem denique egisse licentia

15 3 1 2 5 4 6 8
to a married couple nothing Yet I have written amazing story for the sake of but things heard
coniugali. nihil tamen composui miraculi causa, sed audita

10 9 11 12 7
written and by earlier generations I shall relate
scriptaque a senioribus tradam.

5

Messalina III (translation)

It will certainly seem incredible *that* any mortals possessed so much recklessness (*lit.* so much of recklessness to have been to any mortals) in a city *which was* aware of everything and silent about nothing. Not only that, on the prearranged day the consul designate joined in marriage with the wife of the emperor, as though for the purpose of rearing children, with those who were to be witnesses standing by. And, when the sacrifices were finished (*lit.* with the sacrifices finished), they reclined at table among guests, exchanged kisses and embraces *and* finally spent the night in the way permitted to a married couple. Yet I have written nothing for the sake of an amazing story, but I shall relate things heard and written by earlier generations.

Messalina IV

Messalina IV (numbered)

1 2 3 4 | 2 1 3 4
igitur domus principis inhorruit, maximeque ei qui

6 5 7 8 9 10 | 3
potentiam habebant timuerunt ne res verterentur: spem

1 2 3 5 6 7 8
tamen habebant, si Claudio de atrocitate sceleris

4 9 10 11 13 14
persuasissent, Messalinam posse opprimi sine quaestione

12 | 1 3 2 4 5 7 6
damnatam; sed periculum esse ne ille defensionem audiret,

5

8 11 9 12 13 11 10 | 1
neve clausae aures etiam confitenti non essent. Narcissus,

3 2 4 5 7 8 9
occasiones quaerens, cum Caesar diu apud Ostiam

6 11 12 13 14 15 16
moraretur, duas eius paelices largitione et promissis

10 18 17 1 2 3 5 6
pulpulit delationem subire. exim Calpurnia (id alteri paelici

4 7 9= 8 11 12 13
nomen), ubi datum est secretum, ad genua Caesaris

10

10 16 15 17 14 | 1
provoluta nupsisse Messalinam Silio exclamat; altera

2 4 3 5 8 7
paelice haec confirmante, Calpurnia cieri Narcissum

6 1 5 4 2 3 1
postulat. qui 'discidiumne tuum' inquit 'novisti? nam

9 8 7 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2
matrimonium Sillii vidit populus et senatus et milites; ac nisi

4 3 6 7 5
celeriter agis, tenet urbem maritus.'

15

Messalina IV (with translation)

Therefore household of the emperor shuddered most of all and those who
igitur domus principis inhorruit, maximeque ei qui

power had feared that things might be overturned hope
potentiam habebant timuerunt ne res verterentur: spem

however they had if Claudius about enormity of the crime
tamen habebant, si Claudio de atrocitate sceleris

they persuaded Messalina might be able to be crushed without trial
persuasissent, Messalinam posse opprimi sine quaestione

having been condemned But danger there was that he defence might listen to
damnatam; sed periculum esse ne ille defensionem audiret,

5

and that closed ears even confessing to her not might ... be Narcissus
neve clausae aures etiam confitenti non essent. Narcissus,

opportunities looking for while Claudius for a long time at Ostia
occasiones quaerens, cum Caesar diu apud Ostiam

delayed two of his courtesans with bribery and promises
moraretur, duas eius paelices largitione et promissis

prevailed upon accusation to undertake Then Calpurnia that of one courtesan
perpulit delationem subire. exim Calpurnia (id alteri paelici

name when was given private interview at knees of Claudius
nomen), ubi datum est secretum, ad genua Caesaris

10

having fallen down has married Messalina Silius exclaims with the other
provoluta nupsisse Messalinam Silio exclamat; altera

courtesan these things confirming Calpurnia be summoned Narcissus
paelice haec confirmante, Calpurnia cieri Narcissum

demands He divorce your asks do you know about For
postulat. qui 'discidiumne tuum' inquit 'novisti? nam

marriage Silius' have seen people and senate and soldiers and unless
matrimonium Silii vidit populus et senatus et milites; ac nisi

quickly you act holds city husband
celeriter agis, tenet urbem maritus.'

15

Messalina IV (with numbered translation)

1 2 3 4 | 2 1 3 4
Therefore household of the emperor shuddered most of all and those who
igitur domus principis inhorruit, maximeque ei qui

6 5 7 8 9 10 | 3
power had feared that things might be overturned hope
potentiam habebant timuerunt ne res verterentur: spem

1 2 3 5 6 7 8
however they had if Claudius about enormity of the crime
tamen habebant, si Claudio de atrocitate sceleris

4 9 10 11 13 14
they persuaded Messalina might be able crushed without trial
persuasissent, Messalinam posse opprimi sine quaestione

12 | 1 3 2 4 5 7 6
having been condemned But danger was that he defence might listen to
damnata; sed periculum esse ne ille defensionem audiret,

8 11 9 12 13 11 10 | 1
and that closed ears even confessing to her not might ... be Narcissus
neve clausae aures etiam confitenti non essent. Narcissus,

3 2 4 5 7 8 9
opportunities looking for while Claudius for a long time at Ostia
occasiones quaerens, cum Caesar diu apud Ostiam

6 11 12 13 14 15 16
delayed two of his courtesans with bribery and promises
moraretur, duas eius paelices largitione et promissis

10 18 17 1 2 3 5 6
prevailed upon accusation to undertake Then Calpurnia that of one courtesan
perpulit delationem subire. exim Calpurnia (id alteri paelici

4 7 9= 8 11 12 13
name when was given private interview at knees of Claudius
nomen), ubi datum est secretum, ad genua Caesaris

10 16 15 17 14 | 1
having fallen down has married Messalina Silius exclaims with the other
provoluta nupsisse Messalinam Silio exclamat; altera

5

10

2 4 3 5 8 7
 courtesan these confirming Calpurnia summoned Narcissus
 paelice haec confirmante, Calpurnia cieri Narcissum

6 1 5 4 2 3 1
 demands He divorce your asks do you know about For
 postulat. qui 'discidiumne tuum' inquit 'novisti? nam

9 8 7 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2
 marriage Silius' have seen people and senate and soldiers and unless
 matrimonium Silius' vidit populus et senatus et milites; ac nisi

4 3 6 7 5
 quickly you act holds city husband
 celeriter agis, tenet urbem maritus.'

15

Messalina IV (translation)

Therefore the household of the emperor shuddered, and most of all those who had power feared that the government (*lit.* things, the situation) might be overthrown. However they had hope *that*, if they persuaded Claudius of the enormity of the crime, Messalina might be able to be crushed by being condemned without trial. But *they thought that* there was a danger that he might listen to her defence, and that his ears might not be closed *to Messalina* even if she confessed (*lit.* to her confessing). Narcissus, looking for opportunities, while Claudius delayed for a long time at Ostia, prevailed upon two of his courtesans with bribery and promises to undertake the accusation. Then Calpurnia (that was the name of (*lit.* to) one courtesan), when a private interview was given, having fallen down at the knees of Claudius, exclaims that Messalina has married Silius. With the other courtesan confirming these things, Calpurnia demands that Narcissus be summoned. He (*lit.* Who) asks 'Do you know about your divorce? For the people and the senate and the soldiers have seen Silius' marriage; and if you do not act quickly, her husband holds the city.'

Messalina V

Messalina V (numbered)

1 4 3 2 5 6 7
tum amicos fidelissimos vocat, praesertim Lusium Getam

9 8 1 2 3 4
praetorianis praefectum. eo locuto ceteri certatim

5 6 7 8 9 11 10 11
circumstrepunt ut iret in castra firmaretque praetorias

12 15 14 16 17 13
cohortes, securitati suae antequam vindictae consuleret.

1 2 4 3 5 6 8
iam Claudius identidem interrogabat an ipse imperii

5

7 9 10 12 11
potens, an Silius privatus esset.

Messalina V (with translation)

Then friends most loyal he calls particularly Lusius Geta
tum amicos fidelissimos vocat, praesertim Lusium Getam

of the Praetorian Guard commander With having him spoken others in rivalry
praetorianis praefectum. eo locuto ceteri certatim

shout he should that go to camp secure and praetorian
circumstrepunt ut iret in castra firmaretque praetorias

cohorts safety his own before vengeance he should consider
cohortes, securitati suae antequam vindictae consuleret.

Now Claudius repeatedly was ... asking whether he himself of the empire
iam Claudius identidem interrogabat an ipse imperii

5

had control whether Silius private citizen was
potens, an Silius privatus esset.

Messalina V (with numbered translation)

1 4 3 2 5 6 7
Then friends most loyal he calls particularly Lusius Geta
tum amicos fidelissimos vocat, praesertim Lusium Getam

 9 8 1 2 3 4
 of the commander With having
Praetorian Guard him spoken others in rivalry
praetorianis praefectum. eo locuto ceteri certatim

 5 6 7 8 9 11 10 11
 shout that go to camp secure and praetorian
circumstrepunt ut iret in castra firmaretque praetorias

 12 15 14 16 17 13
 cohorts safety his own before vengeance he should consider
cohortes, securitati suae antequam vindictae consuleret.

 1 2 4 3 5 6 8
 Now Claudius repeatedly was ... asking whether he himself of the
 empire
iam Claudius identidem interrogabat an ipse imperii

5

 7 9 10 12 11
 had control whether Silius private citizen was
potens, an Silius privatus esset.

Messalina V (translation)

Then he calls his most loyal friends, especially Lusius Geta, commander of the Praetorian Guard. When he had spoken (*lit.* with him having spoken) the others, in rivalry, shout that *Claudius* should go to the camp and secure the Praetorian cohorts, he should consider his own safety before vengeance. Now Claudius was repeatedly asking whether he himself had control of the empire, *and* whether Silius was a private citizen.

Messalina VI

Messalina VI (numbered)

1 2 3 4 5 7 6
at Messalina, numquam solutior luxu, adulto autumno
9 10 11 12 8 2
simulacrum vindemiae per domum celebrabat. urgebantur
1 4 3 | 1 3 2 4
prela, fluebat vinum. feminae pellibus accinctae adsultabant
5 7 8 9 6 | 1 2 3
ut sacrificantes vel insanientes Bacchae; ipsa crine fluxo
5 4 | 2 1 3 5 4
thyrsum quatiebat, iuxtaque Silius hedera vinctus,
7 6 8 9 10 13 11
cothurnos gerens iaciebat caput, strepente circum procaci
12 1 2 3 4 6 7 8
choro. ferunt Vettium Valentem, cum in praealtam arborem
9 10 5 11 12 13
per lasciviam ascendisset, ceteris interrogantibus quid
14 15 17 18 19 16 | 1
aspiceret respondisse tempestatem ab Ostia atrocem - sive
4 2 3 5 8 7 6 9 11
coeperat ea species, seu forte lapsa vox postea in
12 10
praesagium vertit.

5

10

Messalina VI (with translation)

Mean-
while Messalina never more in well- with
unrestrained extravagance advanced autumn
at Messalina, numquam solutior luxu, adulto autumnno

of the
show grape-harvest throughout house was celebrating were being squeezed
simulacrum vindemiae per domum celebrabat. urgebantur

Presses was flowing wine Women skins dressed in were jumping about
prela, fluebat vinum. feminae pellibus accinctae adsultabant

like sacrificing or in a frenzy Bacchants | herself with hair streaming
ut sacrificantes vel insanientes Bacchae; ipsa crine fluxo

Bacchic wand was shaking near by and Silius in ivy wrapped
thyrsum quatibat, iuxtaque Silius hedera vinctus,

5

high boots wearing was tossing head with a noisy around undisciplined
cothurnos gerens iaciebat caput, strepente circum procaci

crowd They say Vettius Valens when into very high tree
choro. ferunt Vettium Valentem, cum in praealtam arborem

for fun he had climbed with others asking what
per lasciviam ascendisset, ceteris interrogantibus quid

he could see replied storm from Ostia terrible either
aspiceret respondisse tempestatem ab Ostia atrocem - sive

had begun that sight or chance by let slip words afterwards into
coeperat ea species, seu forte lapsa vox postea in

10

prophecy turned
praesagium vertit.

Messalina VI (with numbered translation)

1 2 3 4 5 7 6
 Mean- Messalina never more in well- with
 while Messalina never unrestrained extravagance advanced autumn
at Messalina, numquam solutior luxu, adulto autumnno

 9 10 11 12 8 2
 show of the grape-harvest throughout house was celebrating were being squeezed
simulacrum vindemiae per domum celebrabat. urgebantur

 1 4 3 | 1 3 2 4
 Presses was flowing wine | Women skins dressed in were jumping about
prela, fluebat vinum. feminae pellibus accinctae adsultabant

 5 7 8 9 6 | 1 2 3
 like sacrificing or in a frenzy Bacchants | herself hair streaming
ut sacrificantes vel insanientes Bacchae; ipsa crine fluxo

 5 4 | 2 1 3 5 4
 Bacchic wand was shaking near by and Silius in ivy wrapped
thyrsum quatiebat, iuxtaque Silius hedera vinctus,

 7 6 8 9 10 13 11
 high boots wearing was tossing head with a noisy around undisciplined
cothurnos gerens iaciebat caput, strepente circum procaci

 12 1 2 3 4 6 7 8
 crowd They say Vettius Valens when into very high tree
choro. ferunt Vettium Valentem, cum in praealtam arborem

 9 10 5 11 12 13
 for fun he had climbed with others asking what
per lasciviam ascendisset, ceteris interrogantibus quid

 14 15 17 18 19 16 | 1
 he could see replied storm from Ostia terrible | either
aspiceret respondisse tempestatem ab Ostia atrocem - sive

 4 2 3 5 8 7 6 9 11
 had begun that sight or by let
 chance slip words afterwards into
coeperat ea species, seu forte lapsa vox postea in

 12 10
 prophecy turned
praesagium vertit.

5

10

Messalina VI (translation)

Meanwhile Messalina, never more unrestrained in *her* extravagance, with autumn well-advanced was celebrating a show of the grape-harvest throughout the house. Presses were being squeezed, wine was flowing. Women dressed in skins were jumping about like Bacchantes performing sacrifices or in a frenzy; *Messalina* herself, with hair streaming, was shaking a Bacchic wand, and nearby Silius, wrapped in ivy *and* wearing long boots, was tossing his head, with a noisy, undisciplined crowd around. They say that Vettius Valens, when for fun he climbed a very high tree and the others asked him what he could see up there, replied that there was a terrible storm coming from Ostia – either the sight of it had indeed begun, or a chance phrase turned into a prophecy afterwards.

Messalina VII

Messalina VII (numbered)

2 3 4 1 5 7 6 9
non solum rumor interea, sed undique nuntii ad
10 8 11 13 15 14 16
Messalinam contendunt, qui Claudium omnia cognovisse et
17 18 19 12 1 3
venire promptum ultioni adferrent. igitur Messalina
6 4 5 7 8 9 10 11
Lucullianos in hortos, Silius dissimulando metui ad forum
2 | 1 2 3 4
digrediuntur. illa tamen, quamquam res adversae
6 5 9 10 11 12 13 7
consilium eximerent, ire obviam et aspici a marito statim
8 14 15 18 16 17 | 2 1 3
constituit, quod saepe ei fuerat subsidium; misitque ut
4 5 6 8 9 10 7 | 1
Britannicus et Octavia in complexum patris irent. atque
2 3 5 4 6 7 8
interim, tribus omnino comitantibus - tam repens erat
9 10 12 13 14 11 15 16
solitudo - postquam per urbem pedibus ivit, vehiculo, quo
18 17 20 23 22 21
purgamenta hortorum eripiuntur, Ostiensem viam intrat.
2 3 4 1 5 7
nullam misericordiam civibus commovit quia flagitiorum
6 8 1 2 3 4 6 5
deformitas praevalerat. et iam erat in aspectu Claudii
8 7 9 10 12 13 14 11
clamitabatque ut audiret Octaviae et Britannici matrem.
1 2 3 5 6 7 4
Narcissus tamen obstrepuit, Silium et nuptias referens;
1 3 5 4 2 6 8
simul codicillos libidinum indices tradidit, quibus visus
9 7 1 2 3 7 6
Caesaris averteret. nec multo post urbem ingredienti

5

10

15

5 4 8 9 12 11 10
offerebantur liberi, sed Narcissus amoveri eos iussit.

Messalina VII (with translation)

not only rumour Meanwhile but ^{from all} directions messengers to
non solum rumor interea, sed undique nuntii ad

Messalina hurry to Claudius everything had found out and
Messalinam contendunt, qui Claudium omnia cognovisse et

was coming ready for revenge report Therefore Messalina
venire promptum ultioni adferrent. igitur Messalina

of Lucullus to Gardens Silius to disguise fear to Forum
Lucullianos in hortos, Silius dissimulando metui ad forum

separate She however although disaster
digrediuntur. illa tamen, quamquam res adversae

5

planning prevented to go to meet and be seen by husband immediately
consilium eximerent, ire obviam et aspici a marito statim

decided which often ^{for} her had been life-line ^{she sent} orders and that
constituit, quod saepe ei fuerat subsidium; misitque ut

Britannicus and Octavia to arms ^{of their} father ^{should} go And
Britannicus et Octavia in complexum patris irent. atque

meanwhile with three in total companions so sudden was
interim, tribus omnino comitantibus - tam repens erat

desertion after through city on foot ^{she} went in a cart in which
solitudo - postquam per urbem pedibus ivit, vehiculo, quo

10

refuse garden is removed to Ostia road she takes
purgamenta hortorum eripiuntur, Ostiensem viam intrat.

no pity from citizens She aroused because of the scandals
nullam misericordiam civibus commovit quia flagitiorum

appalling nature carried more weight And now ^{she} was in sight Claudius'
deformitas praevalabat. et iam erat in aspectu Claudii

shouting repeatedly and that he listen to of Octavia and Britannicus mother
clamitabatque ut audiret Octaviae et Britannici matrem.

Narcissus however shouted down Silius and wedding recalling
Narcissus tamen obstrepuit, Silium et nuptias referens;

15

At the same time notebooks of debauchery as proof handed over with which attention he
simul codicillos libidinum indices tradidit, quibus visus
of Claudius to distract Not long afterwards city to him entering
Caesaris averteret. nec multo post urbem ingredienti
were offered children but Narcissus to be removed them ordered
offerebantur liberi, sed Narcissus amoveri eos iussit.

Messalina VII (with numbered translation)

2 3 4 1 5 7 6 9
 not only rumour Meanwhile but directions messengers to
 non solum rumor interea, sed undique nuntii ad

 10 8 11 13 15 14 16
 Messalina hurry to Claudius everything had found out and
 Messalinam contendunt, qui Claudium omnia cognovisse et

 17 18 19 12 1 3
 was coming ready for revenge report Therefore Messalina
 venire promptum ultioni adferrent. igitur Messalina

 6 4 5 7 8 9 10 11
 of Lucullus to Gardens Silius to disguise fear to Forum
 Lucullianos in hortos, Silius dissimulando metui ad forum

 2 | 1 2 3 4
 separate She however although disaster
 digrediuntur. illa tamen, quamquam res adversae

 6 5 9 10 11 12 13 7
 planning prevented to go to meet and be seen by husband immediately
 consilium eximerent, ire obviam et aspici a marito statim

 8 14 15 18 16 17 | 2 1 3
 decided which often for her had been life-line she sent orders and that
 constituit, quod saepe ei fuerat subsidium; misitque ut

 4 5 6 8 9 10 7 | 1
 Britannicus and Octavia to arms of their should go And
 Britannicus et Octavia in complexum patris irent. atque

 2 3 5 4 6 7 8
 meanwhile with three in total companions so sudden was
 interim, tribus omnino comitantibus - tam repens erat

 9 10 12 13 14 11 15 16
 desertion after through city on foot she went in a cart in which
 solitudo - postquam per urbem pedibus ivit, vehiculo, quo

 18 17 20 23 22 21
 refuse garden is removed to Ostia road she takes
 purgamenta hortorum eripiuntur, Ostiensem viam intrat.

 2 3 4 1 5 7
 no pity from citizens She aroused because of the scandals
 nullam misericordiam civibus commovit quia flagitiorum

5

10

6 8 1 2 3 4 6 5
appalling nature carried more weight And now was in sight Claudius'
deformitas praevalabat. et iam erat in aspectu Claudii

8 7 9 10 12 13 14 11
shouting repeatedly and that he listen to of Octavia and Britannicus mother
clamitabatque ut audiret Octaviae et Britannici matrem.

1 2 3 5 6 7 4
Narcissus however shouted down Silius and wedding recalling
Narcissus tamen obstrepuit, Silium et nuptias referens;

15

1 3 5 4 2 6 8
At the same time notebooks of debauchery as proof handed over with which attention
simul codicillos libidinum indices tradidit, quibus visus

9 7 1 2 3 7 6
of Claudius to distract Not long afterwards city to him entering
Caesaris averteret. nec multo post urbem ingredienti

5 4 8 9 12 11 10
were offered children but Narcissus to be removed them ordered
offerebantur liberi, sed Narcissus amoveri eos iussit.

Messalina VII (translation)

Meanwhile not only rumour, but messengers from all directions hurry to Messalina to report *that* Claudius had found out everything and was coming ready for revenge. Therefore they separate, Messalina to the Gardens of Lucullus, Silius, to disguise his fear, to the Forum. She, however, although the disaster prevented planning, immediately decided to go to meet and be seen by *her* husband – a *ploy* which had often been a life-saver for her – and she sent orders that Britannicus and Octavia should go to the arms of their father. And meanwhile, with three companions in total – so sudden was *her* desertion – after she went through Rome on foot, in a cart in which garden-refuse is removed, she takes the road to Ostia. She aroused no pity from the citizens, because the appalling nature of the scandals carried more weight. And now she was in Claudius' sight and shouting repeatedly that he listen to the mother of Britannicus and Octavia. Narcissus, however, shouted *her* down, recalling Silius and *their* marriage. At the same time he handed over notebooks as proof of *her* debauchery, with which to distract the attention of Claudius. Not long afterwards his children were presented to him as he was entering Rome (*lit.* to him entering the city), but Narcissus ordered them to be removed.

**Messalina
VIII**

Messalina VIII (numbered)

5 1 2 3 4 | 3 2
mirum inter haec silentium Claudii: omnia liberto

1 | 1 3 4 5 6 2 | 1
oboediebat; qui contionem militum in castris paravit. apud

2 4 3 5 7 8 6 |
eos praemonente Narcisso princeps pauca verba fecit:

2 1 3 4 6 7 8 9
continuus dehinc clamor militum nomina reorum et poenas

5 | 2 1 3 4 6 7
flagitantium. ductus Silius ad tribunal non defensionem,

8 9 5 10 11= 12 13
non moras temptavit, sed precatus est ut mors

14
acceleraretur.

1 2 7 5 6 3
interim Messalina Lucullianis in hortis prolatare

4 8 9 10 11 12 13 | 1
vitam, componere preces, nonnulla spe et ira: tantam

2 3 4 5 | 1 2 6 5 3
superbiam etiam tum gerebat. ac nisi caedem eius Narcissus

4 7 8 9 10 1
properavisset, vertisset perniciem in accusatorem. nam

2 4 3 5 7 9 8 6
Claudius domum regressus, ubi cena vinoque incaluit,

10 11 13 12 18 14 19 16
imperavit ut femina misera (hoc enim verbo Claudium

17 15 22 24 23 21 20
usum esse ferunt) ad causam dicendam postridie adesset.

4 1 2 3 5 8 7 10
quod ubi Narcissus audivit et languescere iram redire

9 6 11 12 13 14 15 16
amorem vidit, timebat, si moraretur, propinquam noctem et

18 19 17 1 2 4 3
uxorii cubiculi memoriam; igitur prorumpit denuntiatque

5

10

15

5 6 7 8 9 9 10 11
centurionibus et tribuno, qui aderat, exsequi caedem: ita

12 13
imperatorem iubere.

Messalina VIII (with translation)

surprising Amidst ^{these} things ^{silence} of Claudius everything freedman
mirum inter haec silentium Claudii: omnia liberto

he obeyed he assembly of soldiers in camp prepared Among
oboediebat; qui contionem militum in castris paravit. apud

them forewarning with Narcissus emperor a few words said
eos praemonente Narcisso princeps pauca verba fecit:

continuous Thereafter uproar of soldiers names of the guilty and punishments
continuus dehinc clamor militum nomina reorum et poenas

demanding led Silius to platform no defence
flagitantium. ductus Silius ad tribunal non defensionem,

5

no delays attempted but prayed that death
non moras temptavit, sed precatus est ut mors

might come quickly
acceleraretur.

Meanwhile Messalina of Lucullus in Gardens prolonged
interim Messalina Lucullianis in hortis prolatare

life composed prayers with some hope and anger such great
vitam, componere preces, nonnulla spe et ira: tantam

arrogance even then ^{was she} displaying and if ... not execution her Narcissus
superbiam etiam tum gerebat. ac nisi caedem eius Narcissus

10

had ... speeded up ^{she would have} turned ruin on accuser For
properavisset, vertisset perniciēs in accusatorem. nam

Claudius home having returned when dinner wine and ^{with} relaxed ^{he had}
Claudius domum regressus, ubi cena vinoque incaluit,

ordered that woman poor this for phrase Claudius
imperavit ut femina misera (hoc enim verbo Claudium

used they say to case plead next day should be present
usum esse ferunt) ad causam dicendam postridie adesset.

this When Narcissus heard and was weakening anger returning
quod ubi Narcissus audivit et languescere iram redire

15

love saw he feared if he delayed approaching night and
amorem vidit, timebat, si moraretur, propinquam noctem et

of the
marriage bed memory Therefore he rushes out orders and
uxorii cubiculi memoriam; igitur prorumpit denuntiatque

centurions and tribune who was present to carry out execution thus
centurionibus et tribuno, qui aderat, exsequi caedem: ita

emperor orders
imperatorem iubere.

Messalina VIII (with numbered translation)

5 1 2 3 4 | 3 2
 surprising Amidst these things silence of Claudius everything freedman
mirum inter haec silentium Claudii: omnia liberto

1 | 1 3 4 5 6 2 | 1
 he obeyed he assembly of soldiers in camp prepared Among
oboediebat; qui contionem militum in castris paravit. apud

2 4 3 5 7 8 6 |
 them forewarning with Narcissus emperor a few words said
eos praemonente Narcisso princeps pauca verba fecit:

2 1 3 4 6 7 8 9
 continuous Thereafter uproar of soldiers names of the guilty and punishments
continuus dehinc clamor militum nomina reorum et poenas

5 | 2 1 3 4 6 7
 demanding led Silius to platform no defence
flagitantium. ductus Silius ad tribunal non defensionem,

5

8 9 5 10 11= 12 13
 no delays attempted but prayed that death
non moras temptavit, sed precatus est ut mors

14
 might come quickly
acceleraretur.

1 2 7 5 6 3
 Meanwhile Messalina of Lucullus in Gardens prolonged
interim Messalina Lucullianis in hortis prolatare

4 8 9 10 11 12 13 | 1
 life composed prayers with some hope and anger such great
vitam, componere preces, nonnulla spe et ira: tantam

2 3 4 5 | 1 2 6 5 3
 arrogance even then was she displaying and if ... not execution her Narcissus
superbiam etiam tum gerebat. ac nisi caedem eius Narcissus

10

4 7 8 9 10 1
 had ... speeded up she would have turned ruin on accuser For
properavisset, vertisset perniciem in accusatorem. nam

2 4 3 5 7 9 8 6
 Claudius home having returned when dinner wine and he had relaxed
Claudius domum regressus, ubi cena vinoque incaluit,

10 11 13 12 18 14 19 16
ordered that woman poor this for phrase Claudius
imperavit ut femina misera (hoc enim verbo Claudium

17 15 22 24 23 21 20
used they say to case plead next day should be present
usum esse ferunt) ad causam dicendam postridie adesset.

4 1 2 3 5 8 7 10
this When Narcissus heard and was weakening anger returning
quod ubi Narcissus audivit et languescere iram redire

15

9 6 11 12 13 14 15 16
love saw he feared if he delayed approaching night and
amorem vidit, timebat, si moraretur, propinquam noctem et

18 19 17 1 2 4 3
of the marriage bed memory Therefore he rushes out orders and
uxorii cubiculi memoriam; igitur prorumpit denuntiatque

5 6 7 8 9 9 10 11
centurions and tribune who was present to carry out execution thus
centurionibus et tribuno, qui aderat, exsequi caedem: ita

12 13
emperor orders
imperatorem iubere.

Messalina VIII (translation)

Amidst all of this, Claudius' silence was remarkable: he obeyed his freedman in everything; it was his freedman who arranged for an assembly of the troops in their headquarters. In their presence Narcissus explained the situation, then the emperor added a few words. Following that there was immediate uproar among the soldiers, demanding the names of the guilty and their punishment. Silius, brought onto the platform, attempted no defence, no delay. Instead he prayed that his death might be quick.

Meanwhile Messalina prolonged *her* life in the Gardens of Lucullus and composing prayers, with some hope and anger: such great arrogance even then was she displaying. And if Narcissus had not speeded up her execution, she would have turned the ruin on her accuser. For Claudius, having returned home, when he had relaxed with dinner and wine, ordered that the 'poor woman' (for they say Claudius used this phrase) should be present the next day to plead *her* case. When Narcissus heard this and saw *that Claudius'* anger was weakening *and his* love returning, he feared, if he delayed, the approaching night and the memory of the marriage-bed. Therefore he rushes out and orders the centurions and a tribune who was present to carry out the execution: thus the emperor orders (i.e. saying it was an order from the emperor).

Messalina
IX

Messalina IX (numbered)

5 4 1 2 3 | 1 3 4 5
missus quoque unus e libertis: is raptim in hortos

2 6 7 9 8 | 1
praegressus repperit Messalinam, humi fusam; adsidebat

2 3 4 8 9 6 7 5 10
mater Lepida, quae florenti filiae haud concors fuerat; sed

14 15 16 12 13 11
supremis eius necessitatibus ad misericordiam versa

17 18 20 19 | 2 1
suadebat ne percussorem opperiretur: transiisse vitam

5

3 4 5 7 6 8 1 2
neque aliud quam mortem decoram quaerendum. sed nihil

3 4 5 6 8 9 7
honestum inerat Messalinae animo, per libidines corrupto;

1 2 4 3 5 6 9
lacrimae et questus inriti effundebantur, cum impetu

10 8 7 13 11 12 1
venientium pulsae sunt fores adstititque tribunus. tunc

2 3 6 5 4 9 7
primum Messalina fortunam suam intellexit ferrumque

10

8 | 2 3 6 7 8 4 5
accepit; quod frustra iugulo aut pectori per trepidationem

1 10 11 9 | 1 3 2=
admovens, ictu tribuni transigitur. corpus matri concessum // est.

Messalina IX (with translation)

sent also one of freedmen he hurriedly into gardens
missus quoque unus e libertis: is raptim in hortos

having
gone on ahead found Messalina on the ground sprawled Sitting beside *her* was
praegressus repperit Messalinam, humi fusam; adsidebat

mother Lepida who prospering daughter not on friendly terms with had... been but
mater Lepida, quae florenti filiae haud concors fuerat; sed

at ... final her hour of need to pity having turned
supremis eius necessitatibus ad misericordiam versa

was persuading not executioner to await had finished life
suadebat ne percussorem opperiretur: transiisse vitam

5

and not other than death decent should be sought But nothing
neque aliud quam mortem decoram quaerendum. sed nihil

honourable was in Messalina's mind by lust corrupted
honestum inerat Messalinae animo, per libidines corrupto;

tears and complaints useless were pouring out when by the force
lacrimae et questus inriti effundebantur, cum impetu

of those coming were broken down doors stood there and tribune Then
venientium pulsae sunt fores adstititque tribunus. tunc

for the first time Messalina misfortune her realised sword and
primum Messalina fortunam suam intellexit ferrumque

10

accepted it ineffectively to throat and chest on account of trembling
accepit; quod frustra iugulo aut pectori per trepidationem

while applying by a from the to *her*
blow tribune she is stabbed body mother was handed over
admovens, ictu tribuni transigitur. corpus matri concessum // est.

Messalina IX (translation)

One of the freedmen *was* also sent. He, having gone on ahead hurriedly into the gardens, found Messalina, sprawled on the ground. Sitting beside *her* was *her* mother Lepida, who had not been on friendly terms with her daughter while she prospered (*lit.* with her prospering daughter), but having turned to pity at her final hour of need, was persuading *her* not to await the executioner: her life had finished and nothing other than a decent death should be sought. But nothing honourable was in Messalina's mind, corrupted by lust. Tears and useless complaints were pouring out, when the doors were broken down by the force of those coming and the tribune stood there. Then for the first time Messalina realised her misfortune and accepted the sword. While applying it ineffectively, on account of *her* trembling, to her throat and chest, she is stabbed by a blow from the tribune. Her body was handed over to her mother.

Messalina
X

Messalina X (numbered)

1= 3 2 4 5 1
nuntiatum est Claudio epulanti Messalinam perisse. ille
3 4 2 5 6 7 8 10 11
non ultra quaesivit, sed poposcit poculum et solita convivio
9 1 3 2 4 7 8 9
celebravit. ne proximis quidem diebus, odii gaudii irae
10 12 11 13 14 6 5 15
tristitiae ullius denique humani adfectus signa dedit, non
16 18 19 17 20 21 22
cum laetantes accusatores aspiceret, non cum filios
23 2 4 3 1 5 6
maerentes. iuvit oblivionem eius senatus, qui decrevit
10 7 8 9 11 12 13 14
Messalinae nomen et effigies privatis ac publicis locis
15
demonendas.

5

Messalina X (with translation)

It was announced Claudius to the feasting Messalina had perished He
nuntiatum est Claudio epulanti Messalinam perisse. ille

no more asked but demanded cup and things at a banquet
non ultra quaesivit, sed poposcit poculum et solita convivio

feasted on Not on the following even days of hatred joy anger
celebravit. ne proximis quidem diebus, odii gaudii irae

sadness of any in fact human emotion signs he give not
tristitiae ullius denique humani adfectus signa dedit, non

when rejoicing accusers he saw not when children
cum laetantes accusatores aspiceret, non cum filios

grieving helped forgetfulness his The senate it decreed
maerentes. iuvit oblivionem eius senatus, qui decrevit

of Messalina name and images from private and public places
Messalinae nomen et effigies privatis ac publicis locis

should be removed
demonendas.

5

Messalina X (with numbered translation)

1= 3 2 4 5 1
It was announced Claudius to the feasting Messalina had perished He
nuntiatum est Claudio epulanti Messalinam perisse. ille

3 4 2 5 6 7 8 10 11
no more asked but demanded cup and things at a banquet
non ultra quaesivit, sed poposcit poculum et solita convivio

9 1 3 2 4 7 8 9
feasted on Not on the following even days of hatred joy anger
celebravit. ne proximis quidem diebus, odii gaudii irae

10 12 11 13 14 6 5 15
sadness of any in fact human emotion signs he give not
tristitiae ullius denique humani adfectus signa dedit, non

16 18 19 17 20 21 22
when rejoicing accusers he saw not when children
cum laetantes accusatores aspiceret, non cum filios

23 2 4 3 1 5 6
grieving helped forgetfulness his The senate it decreed
maerentes. iuvit oblivionem eius senatus, qui decrevit

10 7 8 9 11 12 13 14
of Messalina name and images from private and public places
Messalinae nomen et effigies privatis ac publicis locis

15
should be removed
demovendas.

5

Messalina X (translation)

It was announced to Claudius as he feasted (*lit.* to the feasting Claudius) *that* Messalina had perished. He asked no more, but demanded a cup and feasted on the customary things at a banquet. Not even on the following days did he give signs of hatred, joy, anger, sadness, in fact of any human emotion, not when he saw the rejoicing accusers, not when *he saw* his children grieving. The senate helped him to forget Messalina (*lit.* helped his forgetfulness of Messalina); it decreed *that* the name and images of Messalina from private and public places should be removed.