CLAUDIUS

Cassius Dio

59.29 Conspiracy by Chaera and Sabinus against Gai (Praetorian Guard tribunes); murdered him in an alley – very violent, wife and daughter also killed. \(\rightarrow\) AD41

59.30 Senate took control of public funds, guarded by Senators and soldiers, discussions between Guard and Cha Sb. \(\rightarrow\) AD41

60.1 Guards all over the city, Senate meeting discussing forms of government; soldiers broke into the palace and found Clau hiding, hailed as emperor, took to camp, protested then reluctantly accepted; firstly restricted by Senate then deserted by soldiers and Clau voted into all powers, only previous experience as a consul.

Suetonius ‘Life of Claudius’

10 Clau emperor at 50, slipped away while assassins killed Gai and hid, soldiers proclaimed emperor at Praetorian Camp, Consuls had taken the Capitol, crowds demanded a monarchy, 150 gold pieces for every man – ‘bought troops’ loyalty.

11 Destroyed records of past two days – talk of changing government, amnestied executed anti-Gai conspirers.

NERO

Suetonius ‘Life of Nero’

7 Clau adopted at 10, Seneca tutored, maiden speech in Forum, money to people and troops, ceremonial march, thanked Clau, city prefect.

8 17 Clau died, Nero addressed troops at camp, refused ‘Father of the Country’ because of youth.

Tacitus ‘Annals’

12 Clau adopted Nero, Pallas (AD50) (Aga’s lover) favoured Britannicus, but Nero over Brit, Nero first Claudian adopted, everyone felt bad for Brit; too early in Senate, consul, ‘Prince of Youth’. (AD51) Gifts in Nero’s name, triumphal robes, Brit dressed as a minor; 16 Nero married Octavia, backed Ilium to be exempt from public burdens (AD53), Aga decided on murder, (AD54) consulted poison expert (Locusta), Clau drunk, expelled poison, doctor poisoned feather; Senate to ensure Nero’s succession, Aga issued ‘encouraging’ statements to main Guards’ morale, Nero went to camp, said a few words, hailed as emperor, Senate decreed, provinces agreed.

13 Aga angry, wanted Brit to be emperor, Nero maltreated Aga, Nero ordered poison – Brit given harmless drink too hot, poisonous cold water added. \(\rightarrow\) AD55