



Latin Transition Secundus: Week 8 Reading

P. Cornelius Tacitus, Annales XIV.31

This passage provides the background of Roman atrocities in Britain that spurred on the revolt of the Iceni under their fierce warrior queen, Boudicca. This is the only Latin account of Boudicca and the rebellion of 60 AD. The other account is written in Greek by the Roman historian Cassius Dio. Tacitus is known for his abbreviated and succinct prose style.

Rex Icenorum Prasutagus, longa opulentia clarus, Caesarem heredem duasque filias scripserat, tali obsequio ratus regnumque et domum suam procul iniuria fore. Quod contra vertit, adeo ut regnum per centuriones, domus per servos velut capta vastarentur. Iam primum uxor eius Boudica verberibus adfecta et filiae stupro violatae sunt; principes omnes Icenorum, quasi cunctam regionem muneri accepissent, avitis bonis exuruntur, et propinqui regis inter mancipia habebantur. Qua contumelia et metu graviorum, quod in formam provinciae cesserant, rapiunt arma; commotis ad rebellionem Trinovantibus et qui alii, nondum servitio fracti, resumere libertatem occultis coniurationibus pepigerant, acerrimo in veteranos odio. Quippe in coloniam Camulodunum recens deduci pellebant domibus, exturbabant agris, captivos vel servos appellando; foventibus impotentiam veteranorum militibus similitudine vitae et spe eiusdem licentiae. Ad hoc templum divo Claudio constitutum quasi arx aeternae dominationis adspiciebatur, delectique sacerdotes specie religionis omnes fortunas suas effudebant. Nec arduum videbatur excindere coloniam nullis munimentis saeptam; quod ducibus nostris parum provisum erat, dum amoenitati prius quam usui consulitur.

Iceni, Icenorum (m. pl.) – the Iceni tribe in East Anglia

Prasutagus, -i (m) – the deceased king of the Iceni and Boudicca’s husband

clarus, a, um (adj) – best translated here as “renowned”

opulentia, -ae (f) – power, greatness of a state

Caesar, -Caesaris (m) – the emperor at this time was Nero

scripserat here is “had written” in the sense of “had written into law” or “had decreed”; sc esse with heredem as a predicate nominative

obsequium, -i (n) – submissiveness

reor, reri, ratus – think, judge, suppose; *this is introducing indirect statement*

fore = fururam esse

procul (+ abl.) – far from, safe from

verto, vertere, verti, versum – turn, here “turn out”

adeo (adv) – to the point that, to such an extent; this is setting up the following result clause

vasto (1) – plunder, lay waste, empty

velut (adv) – as, as even, just as

Boudica (f) – wife of Prasutagus, queen of the Iceni

adfectio, adficere, adfeci, adfectum – affect, influence, weaken

verber, -eris (n) – lash, whip, scourge

stuprum, -i (n) – ravishing, defilement

Assume “Romani” as the subject of cunctam regionem muneri accepissent, not the princepe – they are the subject of exuruntur.

exuo, exuere, exui, exutum (+ abl) – strip, deprive
avitus, a, um (adj) – ancestral
propinquus, -i (m) – relative
mancipium, -i (n) – a formal legal purchase of something – here it means slaves acquired through sale
contumelia, -ae (f) – humiliation, outrage, insult, affront
commoveo, commovere, commove, commotus – move away, influence, disturb, upset
Trinobantes (m. pl.) – tribe living in Suffolk and Essex
qui alii = alii qui
servitium, -i (n) – slavery, servitude
coniuratio, -onis (f) – a swearing together, conspiracy, plot
pango, pangere, panxi (and pepigi, pactum for perfect forms only) – fix, settle, agree upon, pledge oneself
quippe (conj and adv) – indeed, certainly, to be sure, by all means
Camulodunum, -i (n) – capital of the Trinobantes (modern Colchester)
recens = nuper - recently, take with **deducti** – “those having been settled” – *these settlers are veteranos – retired soldiers who were given conquered land as their pensions.*
pello, pellere, pepuli, pulsum – here “dislodge” (*NB: the ones being dislodged were the Trinobantes*)
exturbo (1) - drive away, thrust out
appellando – ablative of means gerund from appello (1) – call
foveo, fovere, fovi, fotum – encourage, support
impotentia, -ae (f) – lack of self-restraint, violent passion
licentia, -ae (f) – licence, freedom to misbehave
templum, -i (n) - temple
Claudius, -i (m) – Claudius was the Roman emperor who invaded Britain in 43 AD
constituo, constituere, constitute, constitutum - set up, established; **sc. est**
aeternus, a, um (adj) – eternal, never-ending
domination, -onis (f) – domination, tyranny
aspicio, aspicere, aspexi, aspectum – regard, look upon
sacerdos, -dotis (m or f) – priest or priestess
specie, species (f) – pretense, guise
religio, -onis (f) – religious ritual
effundo, effundere, effudi, effusum – pour out, throw out, squander
excindo, excindere, excidi, excissum – tear out, destroy utterly
saepio, saepire, saepsi, saeptum – surround, enclose, hedge in
parum (indeclinable) – too little
amoenitas, -tatis (f) – amenity, attractive appearance
consulo, consulere, consului, consultum – give thought to, have regard for (+dat)