

Word order and interlinear translation

for

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

Theme A: Tacitus, *Messalina*

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## Introduction

### Important notice: only suitable for WJEC Level 2 Unit 9542 Narrative A

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.

### About this booklet

This booklet has been written to help you work out a translation of the extracts set for the 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. 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.

# 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. Silium, 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,

5

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,

10

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.



## 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

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

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.

5

10



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  
susciendorum 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 story for the sake of but things 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 standing by 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 heard  
things  
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  
perpulit 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  
damnata; 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 (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 Praetorian Guard commander With having him spoken others in rivalry  
praetorianis praefectum. eo locuto ceteri certatim

5 6 7 8 9 11 10 11  
shout he should 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

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

5

### 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 quatibat, 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 praevalabat. 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 <sup>from all</sup> 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 <sup>for</sup> her had been life-line <sup>she sent</sup> orders and that  
constituit, quod saepe ei fuerat subsidium; misitque ut

Britannicus and Octavia to arms <sup>of their</sup> father <sup>should</sup> 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 <sup>she</sup> 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 <sup>she</sup> 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    from all 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 father    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 <sup>these</sup> things <sup>silence</sup> 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,

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 <sup>was she</sup> displaying and if ... not execution her Narcissus  
superbiam etiam tum gerebat. ac nisi caedem eius Narcissus

had ... speeded up <sup>she would have</sup> turned ruin on accuser For  
properavisset, vertisset perniciem in accusatorem. nam

Claudius home having returned when dinner wine and <sup>with</sup> relaxed <sup>he had</sup>  
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

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

5

10

15

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.



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

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

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

15

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

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

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

12 emperor 13 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.