

Scholarship and Vice:
Understanding Suetonius and
The Twelve Caesars

Nicholas J. Morris

Suetonius



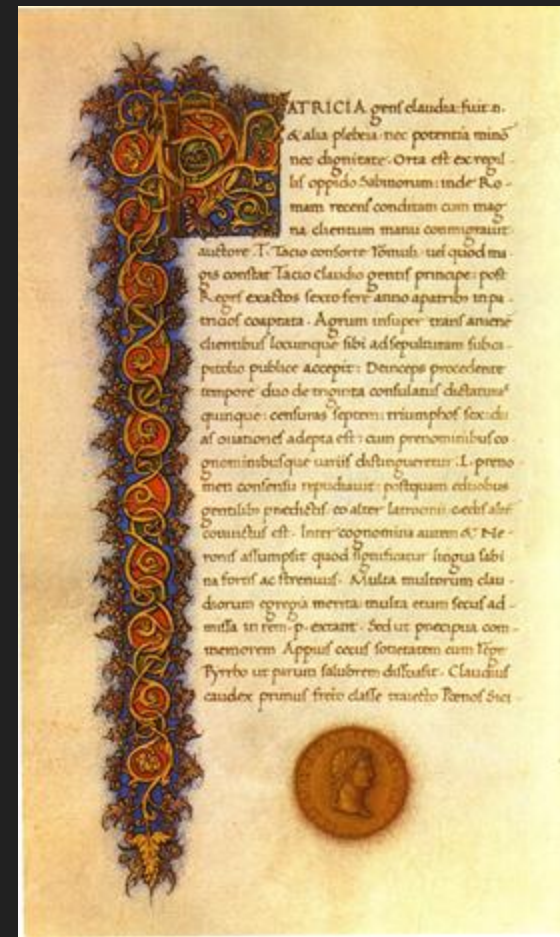
Historiography

- Useless?
- Bad History?



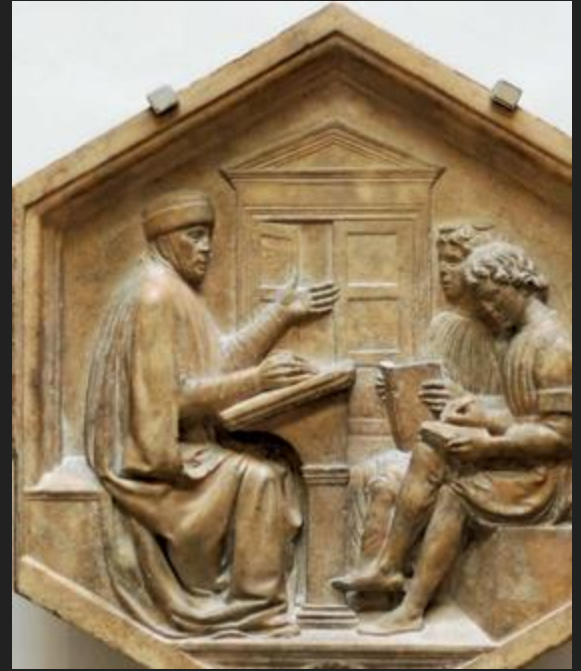
Biographic Style

- Extreme focus on the individual
- Nothing else matter other than the individual emperor



Formatting

- Based on past work in the grammarian field
- Past work focused on listing and defining words
- *The Twelve Caesars* is inspired by this



Individual Length of Biographies

- Mainly based off each emperor's reputation
- More personal facts / rumor = longer biography

Why Should We Care?

- Deviation from the norm \neq discredable
- We can still learn from everything

Conclusion

- Unfair to derogatorily call Suetonius a “tabloid historian”
- Formatting and style is based off personal interest / grammatical work
- Shows us we can learn from anything and not to pass judgement immediately