



Famous Roman Emperors



The Good, the Bad, and the CRAZY!



Augustus: The First Emperor

- Reigned 31 BCE-14 AD
- Defeated three rivals (Lepidus, Marc Anthony, & Pharaoh Cleopatra)
- Restored the control to the Senate
- Remained **EXTREMELY** powerful:
 - Kept wealth of Egypt himself
 - Controlled provinces via the Army
 - Controlled finances, foreign policy, and religion as well!



Caligula: From Hope to Horror

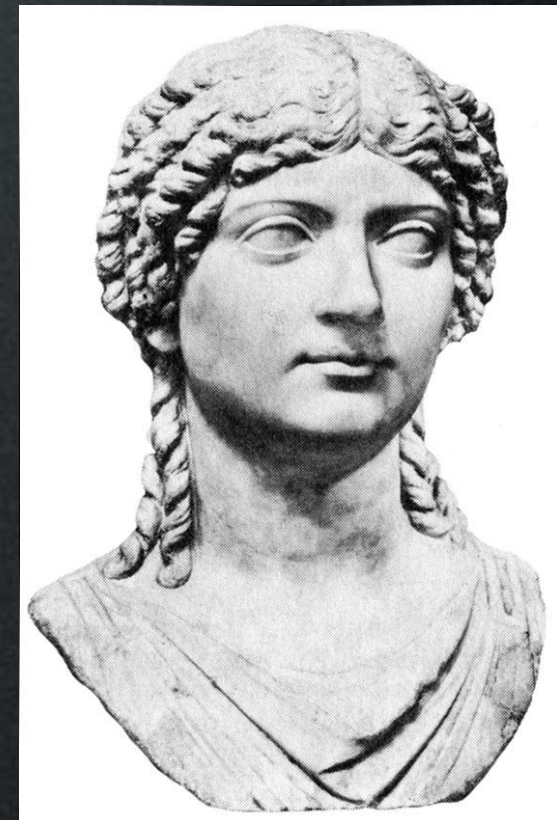
I vote, nay!



- Dressed in silks & jewels
- Pretended he was a god
- Bankrupted Roman Empire
- Made Senators grovel & kiss his feet
- Restored treason trials (executing rivals & allies, including his head body guard)
- Had his horse named to political office
- Was killed by his own advisors & guards after a little over 5 years in power

Nero's Violent Reign

- Young man who loved music, theater, and horse racing
- Dominating mother, Agrippina:
 - Married Emperor Cladius; had him disinherit his own son Britannicus; then poisoned Emperor Cladius!
 - Poisoned Nero's main rival, Britannicus
 - The throne was his! (54-68 AD)
- A Good Start:
 - Ended secret trials
 - Gave Senate more independence
 - Banned capital punishment
 - Reduced taxes
 - Helped slaves, disaster victims, and Jews (who were often mistreated)



Vespasian: First to Win Rome

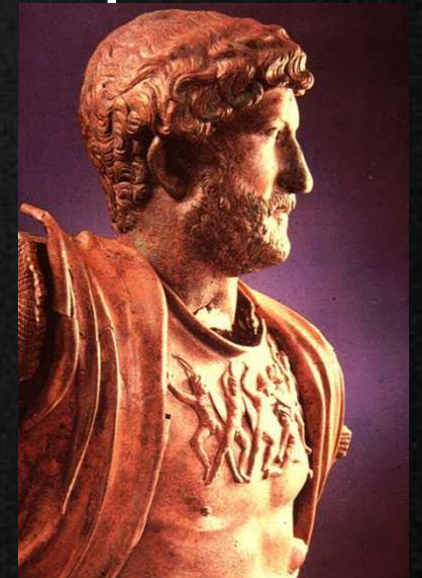


- Fought three other Emperor's for power
- Reigned from 69-79 AD
- Remembered for long-lasting peace, stable finances, and attention to provinces.
- Remember as funny
 - Death bed quote, "Dear me, I seem to be turning into a god."

Hadrian: Walling in the Empire



- Reigned from 117-138 AD during period of peace
- Built:
 - Walls in Africa
 - Towers & Forts in Germany
 - Most Famously, Hadrian's Wall in Britain



Marcus Aurelius: Movin' On Up!

- Selected by Hadrian for succession
- Reigned 161-180 AD
- Spent most of reign fighting wars on frontiers & rebellions
- Remembered for:
 - Promoting officers & civilians based on merit NOT birth!

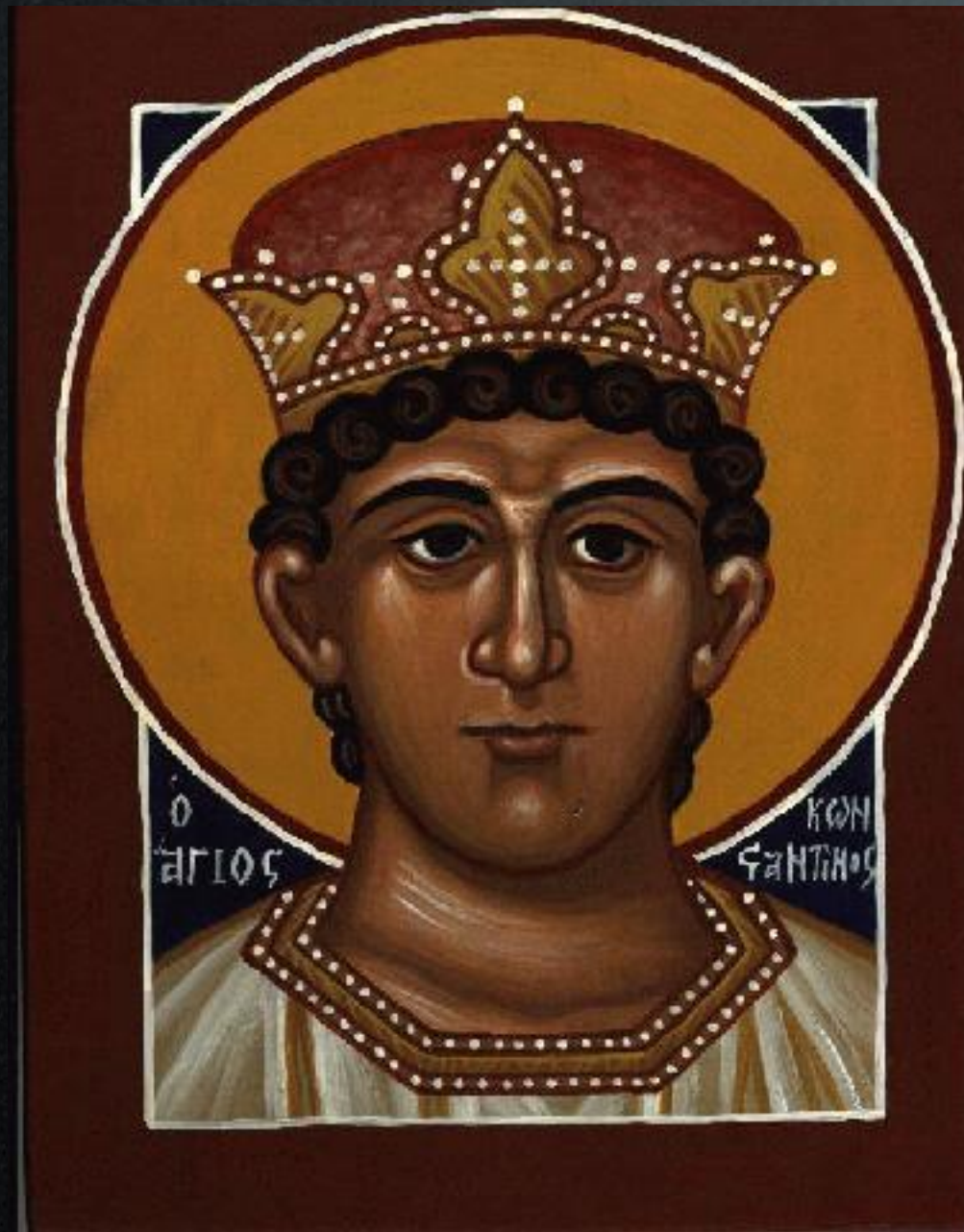


Septimus Severus

- Had to march on Rome to win throne
- Reigned from 193-211 AD
- Recruited his own guards
- Admitted his source of power was the army
 - Raised their pay (first time in decades)
 - Allowed them more privileges
- Distanced himself from people
- Deathbed advice to sons: “Look after the soldiers and ignore everyone else.”



Constantine: Unity & Christianity



- Waged war for nearly two decades to gain control of empire
- In 312 AD invaded Italy to defeat rival (supposedly saw cross in sky and was told, “In this sign shall you conquer.”)
- Became sole emperor in 324 AD