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ANCIENTS

NERO, AS AUGUSTUS (AD 54-68). AV AUREUS (18MM, 7.28 GM, 8H). NGC CHOICE XF 4/5 - 3/5



Nero

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (15 December 37 – 9 June 68 AD) was the fifth Roman emperor, ruling from 54 to 68. His infamous reign is usually associated with tyranny, extravagance and debauchery. Nero, originally named Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, belonged to the Julio-Claudian dynasty, and was adopted as heir by the emperor Claudius, his great-uncle and stepfather. Nero succeeded Claudius while not yet aged 17, and his mother, Agrippina, tried to dominate his early life and decisions, but Nero cast her off and had her killed five years into his reign.

During the early years of his reign, Nero was content to be guided by his mother Agrippina, his tutor Seneca, and his Praetorian prefect Afranius Burrus. As time passed, he began to play a more active and independent role in government and foreign policy. During his reign, the redoubtable general Corbulo conducted a successful war and negotiated peace with the Parthian Empire. His general Suetonius Paulinus crushed a major revolt in Britain, led by the Icenic Queen Boudica. The Bosporan Kingdom was briefly annexed to the empire, and the First Jewish–Roman War began.

AD 64-65. NERO-CAESAR, laureate, bearded head of Nero right / AVGVSTVS-GERMANICVS, Colossus of Nero as Sol, togate, standing facing, radiate head slightly right, left knee bent, branch upward in right hand, Victory on globe in left. RIC I 46. Calicó 402a. A gorgeous and wonderful example of the type with gluttonous late portrait of Nero and superbly detailed reverse. Rare \$13,500.

The reverse depicts Nero's Colossus, a roughly 120-foot tall bronze statue of the emperor as Sol, created by Zenodorus, for the vestibule of the Domus Aurea (Golden House) - the massive palace constructed by Nero after the fire of AD 64.

