

Tacitus' *Annales* 1–3

come alive as a powerful drama

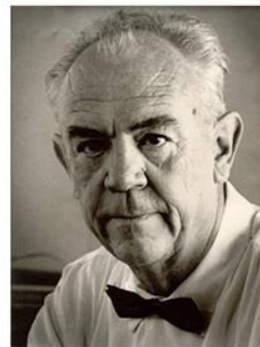
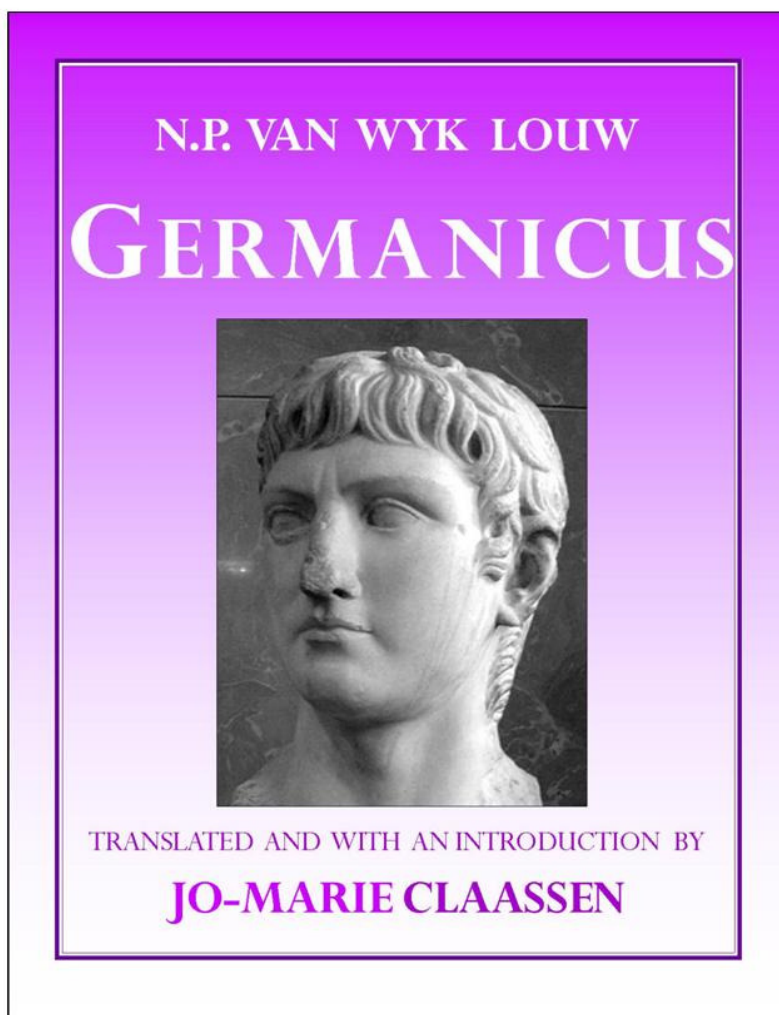
Available for the first time in an English translation, this verse drama by the prominent Afrikaans poet N.P. Van Wyk Louw (1906-1970) portrays the dramatic events that followed upon the death of the Roman emperor Augustus in 14 CE, culminating in the death of his adopted grandson Germanicus in 19. Louw's insightful interpretation of Tacitus' incisive portrayal of the corruption inherent in absolute power will appeal to Tacitean scholars, to students of drama and to anglophone scholars worldwide working in the fields of reception or South African literary studies.

ABOUT THE DRAMA

An ageing monarch, a controversial heir with his own, more popular heir married to a charismatic young wife.

Twenty-first century Britain? No, first-century Rome!

The corruption inherent in power, leading to the helpless subservience of the apparently powerful to the forces that formed him. These are the elements that make of this striking drama a timeless and relevant commentary on power-politics in any era.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

NP Van Wyk Louw (1906-1970) towered over the Afrikaans literary scene as poet and essayist. He was one of the first, perhaps the most prominent, of the so-called *dertigers* “writers of the thirties”), innovative poets who broke new ground, sending Afrikaans poetry in new directions. Louw led the way in rejecting a restrictive, colonial-style literature, concentrating rather on intellectual and self-analytical poetry, rich in symbolism and imagery. He was in 1960 awarded the most prestigious Afrikaans literary prize, the Herzog Prize, for *Germanicus*.
© N.P. Van Wyk Louw 1956

Germanicus

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ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Jo-Marie Claassen holds a D.Litt. from Stellenbosch University, South Africa, for her work on the exiled Roman poet Ovid. She retired from the Department of Ancient Studies at that university in 2001. She has published two books on Ovid and a large number of academic articles on a wide range of topics from the ancient world. Her bilingual home background and interest in languages enabled her to rise to the challenge of translating the idiosyncratic cadences of an Afrikaans classic into modern English verse.



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