THREE CÆSARS

Seventeenth-Century Glass, from Hale Hall

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THE ANCIENT PAINTED GLASS FROM HALE HALL.

Contributed by Philip Nelson, Ph.D., F.R.S.E.

ANOTHER section of the painted glass, formerly preserved at Hale Hall, Lancashire, is a group of equestrian figures of the Cæsars, with descriptive verses beneath. These figures were executed in polychrome enamel on oblong pieces of white glass, and may be dated as of about the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The glass is as follows:

IULI CÆSAR [1]. The emperor, laureate to left, on a prancing steed. He holds a baton.

IVLI CÆSAR 1

By ciuill warrs unto the Empyre came
Bold Cæſar, fortunes darlinge great in fame
The Roman Egle to the Kinges of Fraunce
And unto Englands Kingdome did advance
But when in greateneſſe he grew on amaine
In Senat houſe by Traytors he was ſlaine.

Auguſtvs [2]. The emperor, riding to the left, wears a helmet and holds a baton.

AVGVSTVS 2

To all the world, the Olive Branch of Peace
Auguſtus gainde, by wch all warrs did ceaſe
And Ianus temple ſhut in all his dayes
Did much redound to his Immortall praiſe
Marc Antonie an Cleopatra Queene
Of Ægypte both by him haue Conquered beene.

Tiberivs [3]. The emperor, who wears a laureate and plumed helmet, faces to the right, on a standing horse. He holds a baton.

TIBERIVS 3

A privat life, whilſt in Augustus dayes
Tib^{e}rius ledd, of all men wan the Bayes
And to the topp of virtue he did clyme
In Rome, euen all his father Drusus tyme
But when as once the Seepter he did hold
Of mighty Rome, to vice himſelfe he ſold.

(Caligvla [4].) The emperor, who holds a harp in his right hand and a baton in his left, rides to the right.

CAIVS CALIGVLA 4

Thow neither God, nor man, but Monster art
Whilſt thow in life, ſoe vilely Act's thy part
Inſtead of Spoyles and Triumphe brought to land
Thou gather'ds Shells of fiſhes on the ſand
And whilst in Bedd of Gold, thow hast bin tost
Thy Fame, thy life, and all that's best Was loſt.

(Claudivs [5]. Figure lost.)

CLAVDIVS 5

The office of a ſoldier once but ſought
Unto the Roman Empyre thou Wert brou^{ght}
And all the bloud in Battails wch was ſpent
In Riuer Tyber, thou did'st repreſent
But when in Empyre long, thou ſough'ts to ſtay
Thy life did Agrippina take away.

Nero [6]. The laureate emperor, who holds a baton, rides to the left upon a cavotting horse.

Inscription lost.

Galba [7]. The helmeted emperor, who rides to the right, holds an arrow in his right hand.

GALBA 7

From Noble birth did Cæſar Galba ſpring
From others, Fame, not from himſelfe did brin^{g}
If he great honors never had obtaind
Scorne & deſpight, by Baldneſſe had not gaind
Nor yet triumphing Foes ſuch pranks had plai^{d}
If in a lower ſtate had Galba ſtaid.

Otho [8]. The emperor, on a horse cavotting to the right, wears a laureate helmet, surmounted by a dragon. He holds a baton.

OTHO 8

To ſacrifice at the Altar as he came
He thinks of bloud, and ſtriues to Act the ſame
Laſciuious was this Otho all his raigne
By Cruelty and bloud, he nought did gaine
But as by death, ſoe by his life was try'd
By his owne hands this Cæſar Otho dy'd.

Vitellivs [9]. The emperor, who wears a helmet adorned by a radiate crown, holds a baton and rides upon a horse cavotting to the right.

Inscription lost.

(Vespasian [10]. Figure lost.)

VESPASIAN 10

When Rome wth ſword & famine was op^{prest}
This Cæſar came to bringe them Ioy & reſt
The father of his Cuntrey he was namde
For piety & virtue both enfamde
Great honors to his Cittey this man gaue
For wch a tombe he had & peacefull graue.

Domitian [12]. The emperor, who wears a plumed laureate helmet, rides to the right. He holds a baton.

DOMITIAN 12

This Cæſar to his Countrey was a blott
And blemiſh by his vices wch he gott
He in his life much imitates the Apes
And Proteus like tranſformes into all ſhapes
But when his Gods for to contemne he ſought
He by his ffreindes unto his death was brought.