CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Agricola and the Germania

Tacitus · *c. 98* · *Alfred John Church and William Jackson Brodribb, 1877*

Germany is separated from Gaul, Rhaetia, and Pannonia by the rivers Rhine and Danube. This hosted volume is the Oxford translation, revised, of Tacitus's Germania and Agricola—two short works, complete, and not the Annals of Imperial Rome (a different, incomplete record on this site).

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What does a Roman writer praise in a father-in-law who governed Britain, and what does he think he sees in the German tribes beyond the Rhine?

"by the rivers Rhine and Danube; from Sarmatia and Dacia,"
Germania, the opening description

The translation is the Oxford version revised, with notes, presented here as Church and Brodribb 1877, PG #7524, The Germany and the Agricola of Tacitus, complete. Footnote numbers in brackets are thick; quote only a continuous stretch without them. Map both short works; keep them distinct. This is not the site's record titled The Annals of Imperial Rome, which is a different, incomplete, and mislabeled file (Thomas Gordon's first six Annals plus these two works). A pair of short Latin classics, for older students: a biography with a British campaign, and an ethnography that is also a moral mirror. Do not treat the German pages as a modern political tract.

KEY CHARACTERS

Tacitus
The writer, son-in-law to Agricola, who makes a life and an ethnography.

Agricola
The governor of Britain whose life is the second work, born in the ides of June.

the German tribes
The peoples beyond the Rhine, described as a moral as well as a geographic subject.

the British campaign
The field of Agricola's command, including the northward war.

THE RIVERS AS A LIMIT

> *"by the rivers Rhine and Danube; from Sarmatia and Dacia,"*
> Germania, the opening

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Rivers, and a Border

GERMANIA, THE OPENING

Germany is separated from Gaul, Rhaetia, and Pannonia by the Rhine and the Danube, and from Sarmatia and Dacia by mountains and mutual dread. The first work begins as a geography and a limit.

- 'by the rivers Rhine and Danube; from Sarmatia and Dacia,' is a continuous stretch without footnote numbers, in both witnesses.
- Do not include the bracketed numbers after Germany, Rhaetia, or Pannonia.
- This work is the Germania, not the Annals.

> *"by the rivers Rhine and Danube; from Sarmatia and Dacia,"*
> Germania, opening

02

Manners beyond the Rhine

THE REST OF THE GERMANIA

Customs, councils, warfare, and a moral contrast with Rome. The ethnography is also a mirror, and it must be read as Tacitus wrote it, not as a later political tract.

- Teach the contrast as a Roman moral argument, not as a modern nationalist pageant.
- For older students.
- Cite this Oxford/Church-and-Brodribb wording.

03

Agricola's Life

THE SECOND WORK

The Agricola is a life of Tacitus's father-in-law, a governor of Britain, written as a monument and a judgment. It has its own opening, campaign, and close.

- Keep the two works distinct.
- 'Agricola was born in the ides of June, during the third consulate of Caius Caesar;' is in both (a late chapter; stop before the footnote number).
- The British campaign is the middle of the life.

04

Britain, and a Domestic Close

THE AGRICOLA, LATER

Caledonia, a household, a death under a bad prince, and a memory meant to survive. The second work has a complete close in this file.

- Teach the political danger of the close with gravity.
- Do not import the ending of another Tacitus file over this one.
- A short complete life.

05

Two Works, and a Neighboring Error

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #7524 is this complete pair. Flag, and do not confuse it with the site's Annals record, which is not the complete Annals and is not this translation.

- Church and Brodribb / Oxford revision, 1877; both works complete.
- A pair of short classics, for older students.
- Quote stretches that appear in both witnesses, without footnote numbers.

A Life Written · A Border · Manners as a Mirror · A British Command · Memory of the Good

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The translation is the Oxford version revised, with notes, presented here as Church and Brodribb 1877, Project Gutenberg #7524, The Germany and the Agricola of Tacitus, complete. Footnote numbers in brackets are thick; quote only a continuous stretch without them. "by the rivers Rhine and Danube; from Sarmatia and Dacia," is such a stretch. "Agricola was born in the ides of June, during the third consulate of Caius Caesar;" is in both (stop before the footnote number).
2. Map both short works; keep them distinct. This is not the site's record titled The Annals of Imperial Rome, which is a different, incomplete, and mislabeled file (Thomas Gordon's first six Annals plus Germania and Agricola). Flag that neighboring error; do not treat this volume as the Annals.
3. For older students. Do not treat the German pages as a modern political tract. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the Alfred John Church and William Jackson Brodribb, 1877, Project Gutenberg #7524, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-agricola-and-the-germania/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.