

NEW VOICES IN CLASSICAL RECEPTION STUDIES

Issue 12 (2018)

Nero Revised and Seneca Reviled: Edmund Bolton's *Nero Caesar or Monarchie Depraved*

© Celia Goodburn (*Independent Scholar*)

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the reception of the relationship between Nero and Seneca in Edmund Bolton's *Nero Caesar* (1624 and 1627). It examines Bolton's treatment of Seneca in the context of early Stuart Neostoicism and Tacitism, and demonstrates that Bolton's *Nero Caesar* acts as an intervention into the contemporary debate relating to the use of Tacitus's histories and Seneca's philosophy. In particular, this paper considers Bolton's presentation of Seneca's political role as concerted challenge to the favourable presentation of Seneca found in the moral and political philosophy of Justus Lipsius.