

Tacitus Encyclopedia Article

Tacitus

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Tacitus

c. 56-120

Roman historian and official whose works include *Germania* (A.D. 98), one of the few contemporary accounts of the Germans and Britons. Also important were his *Histories* (c. 109) and *Annals* (c. 116), which together comprise a chronicle of the empire during the 82 years from the death of Augustus (63 B.C.-A.D. 14) to the assassination of Domitian (r. 81-96). Though Tacitus is often regarded as the greatest of Roman historians, he sometimes let his conclusions guide his narrative, and is admired more as a commentator on morals than as a recorder of historical fact.