

Ted Champlin - October 17th, 1992

Nero the Hero

Everyone knows the standard stories of Nero: he murdered his mother, fiddled while Rome burned, built his huge palace, The Golden House, on the ashes of Rome, drained the treasury and committed suicide (with some prompting) at age 30.

Everyone has also heard the stories of Elvis Ú!^•|^ ^ q

his death, shows him as a monster, a theme

monster. What did Nero actually do and what did he mean to do? Normally he was rather passive in military and political matters. His greatest self-emphasis was as a creative artist, supposedly exclaiming as he died, *Qualis artifex pereo!* (What an artist is dying in me!) If we consider the audience, we ask what he did to make the public like him. Theater, amphitheater and circus were important in Roman life as public propaganda. Roman life in that day was profound[]TJET EMC /P MCID 4695