

When there was a shortage of grain because of a long drought, he [Emperor Claudius] was stopped in the middle of the Forum by a mob. The mob yelled complaints and threw bread pieces at him. He could barely escape to the Palace by a back door. After this experience, he did everything he could to import grain into Rome, even in the winter season. To the merchants he insured profits because he offered to pay for any ships or cargo lost in storms.

-Suetonius, "The Life of Claudius" (2nd century CE) excerpt