

# The three Caesars

Amelia Carolina Sparavigna, Politecnico di Torino

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The three Caesars are the marble busts of Tusculum, Farnese and Leiden.

The Tusculum bust is a marble head found in Tuscolo by Luciano Bonaparte. This bust passed to the House of Savoy with some other items of Bonaparte's collection, and was taken to the Castle of Agliè. About 1940, archaeologist Maurizio Borda, comparing the profile with coins of Caesar, recognized Julius Caesar as portrayed in it. Today, the Tusculum bust is at the Archaeological Museum of Torino. The bust is dated 50-40 BC.

The Farnese bust was found in Rome in the Spolia Christi district of Rome. It is a portraiture of Julius Caesar with regular features, curly hair brushed towards his forehead, and a robust cranium. The bust is of first century AD. The sculpture, that was located at Palazzo Farnese, today is at the Archaeological Museum of Naples. The third marble head is today at the National Museum of Antiquities (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden) in Leiden. It was probably found in the fort of Hunerberg in Noviomagus, the Roman Nijmegen. This marble head is heavily damaged. It is probably of the first century AD too.

Let us propose here a rendering of the faces of these three heads. For the rendering we use the face of the Tusculum bust, which is considered the oldest existing portraiture of Caesar. We adapted the face to the other two busts. The result is given in the Figure 1.



Figure 1: From the left: the rendering of the Tusculum bust, the Farnese bust and the Leiden bust.

The result is interesting, because it seems to show that the face of Tusculum fits in a proper manner on the other two busts too. Probably, this is due to the fact that it was used as a model for the following busts of Caesar. Next work will be the study, in the same manner, of the Arles bust.