

**T. MACCI PLAVTI
MOSTELLARIA**

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T. Macci Plavti Mostellaria by Edwin W. Fay

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EDWIN W. FAY

**T. MACCI PLAVTI
MOSTELLARIA**

ALLYN AND BACON'S COLLEGE LATIN SERIES

UNDER THE GENERAL EDITORSHIP OF

CHARLES E. BENNETT AND JOHN C. ROLFE

T. MACCI PLAVTI

MOSTELLARIA

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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Boston

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1902

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PREFACE.

THE present edition of the *Mostellaria* has been printed from the text of Goetz and Schoell's *editio minor* of Plautus, but in not a few cases the manuscript readings have been restored and interpreted, or conjectures that seemed closer to the manuscript readings admitted.

In matters of interpretation, obligation is thankfully acknowledged to the special editions of the *Mostellaria* made by Sonnenschein and Lorenz; to the commentary of Ussing; and to the notes of the critical editions of Schoell and Leo.

The editor alone is responsible for the attempt to fix anew the significance of the names of some of the characters, and thence to derive hints for the verbal interpretation of sundry passages. A detailed consideration of the points involved will be published, it is hoped, at an early date, in *The American Journal of Philology*.

The Notes contain a great number of cross-references to the metrical and grammatical matters contained in the Introduction. If this gives them a forbidding aspect, there should be some relief in the number of renderings given by the Notes. These renderings are not designed as a construing 'crib' for the student, but seek above all to catch

and reproduce, suggestively, at least, the metaphor or turn of thought of the original.

The proof sheets have been read with great care by the general editors of the *College Latin Series* and by Professor H. C. Elmer; the editor begs to acknowledge herewith his great obligations to their learning and their pains.

EDWIN W. FAY.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
July, 1902.

INTRODUCTION.

I.

PLAUTUS: THE MAN AND THE WRITER.

1. The certain knowledge we have of Plautus's life is very scant. He died in 184 B.C. In 200 the comedy entitled *Stichus* was brought out, and in 191 the *Pseudolus*. Our information entitles us to infer that his birth took place some sixty years before the date last mentioned; that is, in the latter half of the decade 260-250 B.C. There is no good reason to doubt the statement that he was an Umbrian, and born in Sarsina, a town about twenty-five Roman miles distant from Ariminum (now Rimini) on the Adriatic.

There is a tradition that Plautus was connected in his earlier life with the theatre at Rome, but the language of that tradition is so vague that we may imagine him to have been anything from an actor of the buffoon sort to a 'prentice scene-painter or stage-carpenter. The tradition informs us that he earned enough money in this employment to engage in a business venture away from Rome; and that, failing in this, he returned to the city, where he toiled in a mill for his support. Three plays, now lost, are said to have been written by him while thus employed.

The plays of Plautus reveal their author's personality as little as Shakespeare's. There are personal allusions in the prologues, to be sure, but they tell us only that he was a translator, rather than an original creator. That he was a mere translator is highly improbable. As in some cases