

T. MACCI
PLAVTI RVDENS

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T. Macci Plavti Rvdens by Edward A. Sonnenschein

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EDWARD A. SONNENSCHIN

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EDITED

WITH CRITICAL AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

BY

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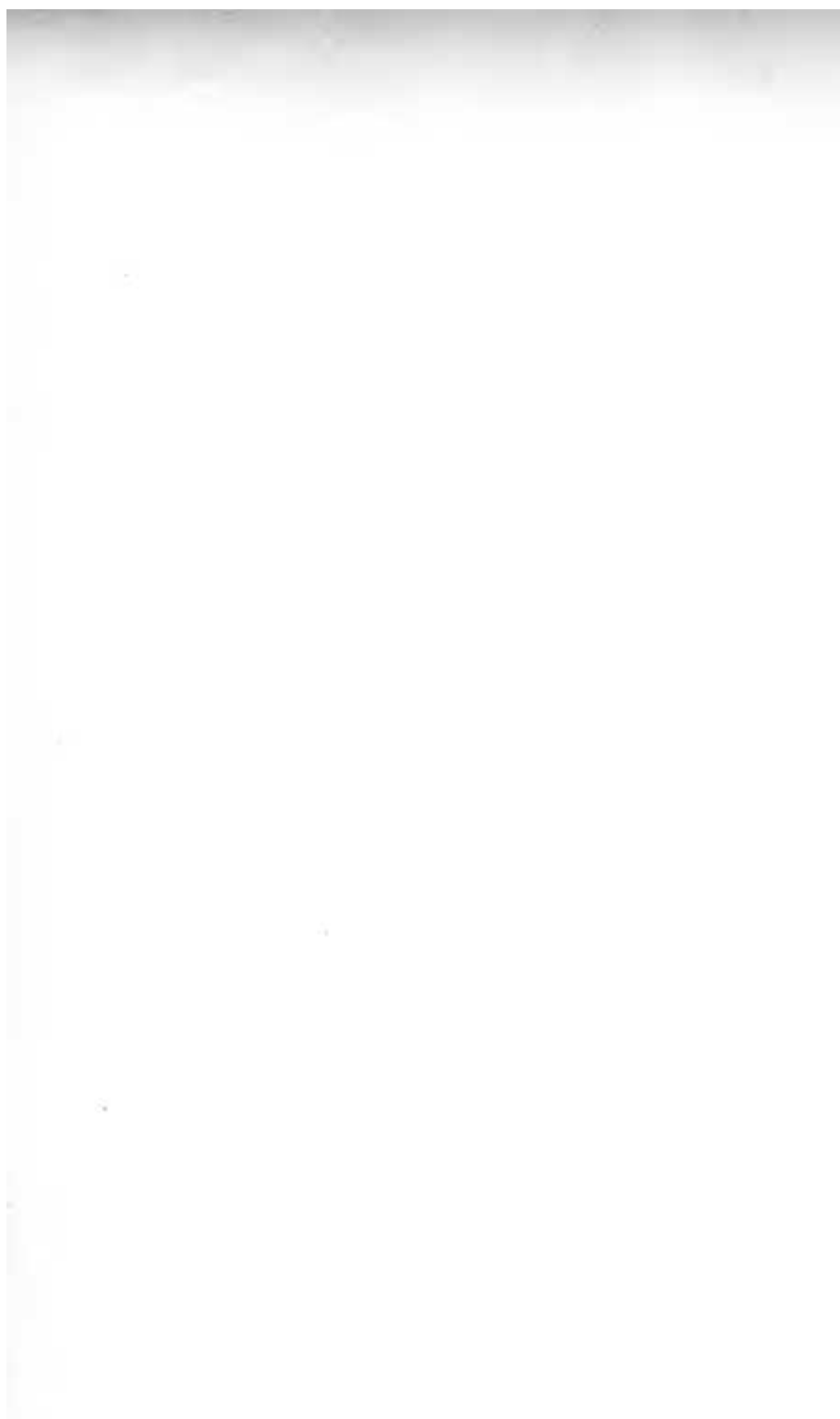
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DEDICATED
TO MY FRIEND
OSKAR SEYFFERT
OF BERLIN



PREFACE.

LONG delayed by the pressure of other work, this volume, which has been at once the delight and the despair of my leisure hours during the past five years, now passes from my hands and is submitted to the judgment of fellow-students of Plautus. The delay in publication I cannot regret, as I have been thereby enabled to make use of the admirable *Apographon* of the Ambrosian palimpsest by the late Professor Studemund of Breslau, which was published only last year. On a number of passages this collation throws new light, and if this, the first English edition of the *Rudens*, is found to be in some respects an advance on previous editions, it will be largely due to the fact that the editor has had the advantage of a more complete basis of MS. evidence than was accessible to his predecessors. Apart from new readings, the mere fact of having before one a reproduction, page by page and line by line, of all that can be deciphered in the oldest MS. is of the greatest assistance in the task of restoring the text.

I have also enjoyed the exceptional privilege of being permitted to publish for the first time a number of emendations by Professor Seyffert of Berlin and by the late Professor Brix of Liegnitz. Those by the former scholar have been

communicated to me privately in the course of a long correspondence on the subject of the *Rudens*; those by the latter are taken from a MS. kindly entrusted to me by Dr. Max Niemeyer of Potsdam. My obligations to Professor Seyffert do not end here; he has not only permitted me to consult him on difficult points of textual criticism and interpretation, but has also generously undertaken the labour of revising the whole of my work; numerous improvements and additions in text and commentary are due to his hand.

To Professor Nettleship of Oxford and Professor Palmer of Dublin I am also indebted for various emendations communicated in the course of my work: to Professor G. G. Ramsay of Glasgow for kindly lending me a collation of *B* by the late Professor W. Ramsay.

My chief obligations to books are to the commentaries on the *Rudens* by Ussing and the older scholars Lambinus, Taubmann and Gronovius; and to the editions of other plays by Brix and Lorenz. My obligations to Schoell's critical apparatus are acknowledged in the *Introduction*. I have also derived much help from Langen's *Beiträge* and *Plautinische Studien*, and from the *Lexicon der lateinischen Wortformen* by Georges, only just completed. Fleckeisen's edition of Plautus, published forty years ago and since reissued from stereotyped plates, is now antiquated, through more recent labours of Fleckeisen himself and others; but his influence as a Plautine critic has been felt by every subsequent editor.

The principles on which my text has been constructed are in the main those of my editions of the *Captivi* (1880) and *Mostellaria* (1884). The terms conservative and radical, as applied to textual criticism, seem to me misleading. The business of the critic is simply to be scientific: he must make

it his aim to remove the frequent blunders with which the text is marred in the MSS., but at the same time he must recognize the limitations under which he works: in passages where the MSS. present deep seated and far reaching corruptions the attempt to restore the original text is sometimes purely illusory. Here, as elsewhere, it is the part of wisdom to face the hard truth. *Sunt certi denique fines quos ultra citraque nequit consistere rectum.* I cannot hope that I have myself always attained to this ideal; but I have borne it steadfastly in mind. Moreover it is surely as great a triumph of criticism to demonstrate on sufficient evidence that a suspected reading of the MSS. is sound, as to restore a corrupt passage by emendation. Every year makes it more evident that slashing criticism produces results which are shifting as the sands: 'the true is one, the false are many.' The first harvest of certain emendations was made long ago. Yet there still remain a large number of passages in which emendation, based upon a more accurate knowledge of the MSS. and of the laws of Plautine language and prosody than was accessible to scholars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, may reach a high degree of probability or even certainty.

The *Critical Apparatus* I have designedly made short and comparatively simple. But I hope that nothing of importance has escaped me. My apparatus holds a midway position between that of Schoell, who records everything, even the variant of a capital for a small letter, and that of Ussing, who does not take account of the Palatine MS. *D.*

In the commentary I have not hesitated to give full explanations of all difficulties which struck me. It is my hope that the notes will serve the purpose of a general introduction