

**WORD FORMATION IN THE ROMAN  
SERMO PLEBEIUS; AN HISTORICAL  
STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
VOCABULARY IN VULGAR AND LATE  
LATIN, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE  
ROMANCE LANGUAGES**

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Word Formation in the Roman Sermo Plebeius; An Historical Study of the Development of Vocabulary in Vulgar and Late Latin, with Special Reference to the Romance Languages by Frederic Taber Cooper

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**FREDERIC TABER COOPER**

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AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
VOCABULARY IN VULGAR AND LATE LATIN, WITH  
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ROMANCE LANGUAGES

BY  
FREDERIC TABER COOPER  
A.B. (HARVARD), A.M., LL.B. (COLUMBIA)

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
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## PREFACE.

WHEN in the Spring of 1891 I chose a subject for my Doctor's Dissertation, my somewhat ambitious design was to collect whatever the industry of modern scholarship had contributed to our knowledge of Plebeian Latin, and to recast the whole in the form of an Historical Grammar of the Sermo Plebeius, under the four heads of Sound-Change, Inflection, Word-Formation and Syntax. The collection of the necessary material was undertaken with the courage of ignorance, but it became evident from the overwhelming mass of material accumulated in the course of two years, that my plan could not be carried out within the reasonable limits of any dissertation. I accordingly have confined my attention to the single division of Word-Formation, which is the most fruitful, and in many respects the most interesting branch of the subject. I have not, however, entirely lost sight of my original design, and if the present work should be fortunate enough to meet with approval I shall be encouraged to follow it with a volume on Plebeian Syntax, the material for which, already accumulated, nearly equals that of Word-Formation.

My endeavor has been to trace the development of those classes of words which have been regarded by the leading authorities as characteristic of the *sermo plebeius*, with special reference to their position in post-classical literature and their relation to the Romance languages. For the purpose of a consistent historical treatment I have gathered my material from literary sources, and relied mainly upon writers like Plautus, Vitruvius, Petronius and Tertullian, whose style approaches the border-line between the classical and popular speech. I have intentionally neglected the inscriptions as a source of Plebeian Latin, for aside from the consideration of the difficulty of assigning dates in a large number of instances,

their chief value lies in tracing dialectic peculiarities, and this cannot be done profitably until the general history of the different forms has been established. A separate study of Word-Formation in inscriptions would however form a useful supplement to the present volume.

The progress of the work has often been hampered by the difficulty of obtaining the necessary special treatises: thus Schmilinsky, *De Proprietate Sermonis Plautini*, Barta, *Sprachliche Studien zu den Satiren des Horaz*, and Nipperdey's *Caesar* were only obtained after several years' search, while many others of equal importance, such as Paucker, *De Latinitate Scriptorum Historiae Augustae Meletemata*, Kretschmann, *De Latinitate L. Apulei Madaurensis*, have remained inaccessible. My endeavor throughout has been to give full credit for all aid received from the authorities consulted, and a list of the most useful ones is given below. I desire however to reiterate here my especial indebtedness to separate articles contained in Wölflin's *Archiv für Lateinische Lexicographie*, and to the indefatigable labor of Carl von Paucker, without whose word-lists a work like the present would be wellnigh impossible.

In regard to citations from Latin Authors, the system of abbreviations and the editions followed are in the main those adopted in the German-Latin Lexicon of K. E. Georges (7th ed., Leipzig, 1880). A few exceptions however deserve mention: the references to Plautus have as far as practicable been revised in accordance with the text of the large edition of Loewe, Goetz and Schoell, (Leipzig, 1884-94);<sup>1</sup> for the R. R. of Cato and Varro, I have followed the edition of H. Keil, 1882-94; for the ecclesiastical writers, the *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum* has been used as far as it has yet appeared (Vols. I-XXVII, Vienna, 1866-94). The following recent additions to the *Bibliotheca Teubneriana* have also been followed: *Marcelli de Medicamentis*, ed. Helmreich, 1889; *Pelagonius*, ed. Ihm, 1892; *Firmicus Maternus*, I, ed. Sittl, 1894; *Sidonius Apollinaris*, ed. Mohr, 1894; *Theodorus Priscianus*, ed. Rose, 1894. The last three, however, were received too late to be of service in the earlier portion of the work.

<sup>1</sup> The last two parts were received too late to be of service in the first fifty pages of this work.

It is due to the printers of these sheets to acknowledge the care and fidelity with which they have performed their part, and I cheerfully assume the responsibility for whatever errors may remain. I am also under lasting obligations to Dr. Charles Knapp, of Barnard College, who has kindly assisted me in the arduous task of proof-reading, and has also allowed me the use of numerous manuscript notes on Aulus Gellius, which his familiarity with that author has rendered especially valuable.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sense of gratitude towards my honored instructor and friend, Professor Harry Thurston Peck, to whose suggestion the present work owes its origin, and whose kind attention and advice have never failed me; my best wish is that it may prove worthy of the interest he has taken in it.

FREDERIC TABER COOPER.

NEW YORK, March, 1895.



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