

**T. MACCI PLAVTI CAPTIVI WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION, CRITICAL APPARATUS,  
EXPLANATORY NOTES AND APPENDIX  
CONTAINING COPIOUS NOTES AND  
EMENDATIONS BY RICHARD  
BENTLEY ON THE WHOLE OF PLAUTUS. NOW  
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

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T. Macci Plavti Captivi with an Introduction, Critical Apparatus, Explanatory Notes and Appendix Containing Copious Notes and Emendations by Richard Bentley on the Whole of Plautus. Now in the British Museum by Edward A. Sonnenschein

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**EDWARD A. SONNENSCHIN**

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*Plautus, Titus C. Cicero*

T. MACCI PLAVTI  
CAPTIVI

WITH

AN INTRODUCTION, CRITICAL APPARATUS,  
EXPLANATORY NOTES

AND

APPENDIX

CONTAINING COPIOUS NOTES AND EMENDATIONS BY

RICHARD BENTLEY ON THE WHOLE OF PLAUTUS

NOW IN MS. IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

EDITED BY

EDWARD A. SONNENSCHN, M.A.

*Late Scholar of University College, Oxford.*

NEW EDITION.

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1880.

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TO THE  
REV. GEORGE GRANVILLE BRADLEY, M.A., LL.D.  
MASTER OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD,

*This Volume is Affectionately Dedicated*

BY HIS FORMER PUPIL,

THE EDITOR.

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1880



## PREFACE TO THE PRELIMINARY EDITION.

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IN preparing an edition of a play of Plautus for the use of my pupils in the Humanity Classes of the University of Glasgow, it has been my aim to put into their hands not merely a commentary which should serve as an introduction to the study of Plautus, but also a text founded upon the best MS. authority available, and cognizant of recent labours in the field of Plautine criticism. No edition of Plautus seemed to me to meet these requirements so well as that of Dr. Julius Brix, whose *Trinummus*, *Captivi*, *Menaechmi* and *Miles Gloriosus*, are already well known in this country; and it was originally my intention simply to produce his *Captivi* in an English dress. My request for permission to do so was met by Dr. Brix with a cordial and ready assent, and a promise to send me further notes and corrections which had suggested themselves to him since the appearance of his last edition. Though in the course of my work I have been led considerably to modify and extend my original plan, I desire here to express my great obligations to the work of Dr. Brix, without which my edition could never have been produced, and the hope that he will pardon me if in some places I seem guilty of presumption in venturing to dissent from the ripe judgment of a veteran critic of Plautus like himself.

The text of the present edition of the *Captivi* is founded upon a collation of the two most important MSS., the *Codex Vetus* and the *Codex Britannicus*, known since Ritschl as *B* and *J* respectively. For the readings of the former, I am chiefly indebted to the edition of Plautus by Ussing, who collated this play at Rome; in cases of doubt, I have consulted Pareus (2nd edition, Frankfort, 1623). The collation of the *Codex Britannicus* I have myself made. It would certainly have been desirable to add a collation of the *Codex Ursinianus* (*D*), which contains the first 500 lines of the play; but I had no means of access to this MS., and have therefore been obliged to content myself with an occasional quotation of its

readings. I have been able, however, to make a valuable addition to my Critical Apparatus, in a considerable number of emendations by Richard Bentley, which are here published for the first time. These I found in the British Museum, written in the margin of a copy of Pareus (Press Mark, 682. b. 10). A comparison of these notes with other specimens of Bentley's handwriting leaves no doubt whatever that they are really Bentley's own. But the best proof of their genuineness is furnished by the readings themselves, which could only have proceeded from a scholar of Bentley's calibre. In one passage (III 5. 66, 67) the marginal correction is identical with one proposed in Bentley's edition of Terence.\* These readings I have further, in the majority of cases, introduced into my text; which, nevertheless, will be found to be on the whole considerably nearer the MSS. even than that of Dr. Brix. In this part of my work I have derived great assistance from the Critical Appendix of Dr. Brix and the notes of Ussing (Vol. II., Havniae, 1878); besides these, I have used the editions of Lindemann (Leipzig, 1830), Weise (Quedlinburg, 1847-48), Fleckeisen (Vol. I., stereotyped ed., Leipzig, first published in 1850), and Geppert (Berlin, 1859), the "Plautinische Prosodie" of Müller (Berlin, 1869), the "Metrik der Griechen und Römer" of Christ (Leipzig, 1879), and the work of A. Spengel on Plautus ("Kritik, Prosodie, Metrik," Göttingen, 1865). My special thanks are due to Professor W. Studemund, of Strassburg, who most kindly sent me information as to the readings of the Vatican MSS. (*B* and *D*) in some cases in which a doubt or difficulty arose.

With regard to the explanatory notes at the end of the book,

\* Many of these emendations have since been independently made by other scholars, among whom I may mention Lindemann, Fleckeisen, and Dr. Brix. But among some fifty-three corrections in the *Captivi*, less than one third, and these for the most part the more obvious ones, are adopted from previous editors. Besides the readings approved by himself, which he distinguishes by the word "leg.," Bentley has added in the same copy of Pareus a collation of the most important variants of the Codex Britannicus, to which he had access as keeper of the Royal Library at St. James'. These have some value, not only as showing the respect that Bentley had for this MS., but because they were copied before the MS. suffered in the fire which burnt the Cottonian Library (1731), and accordingly in a few cases preserve a reading which is now illegible.

they are in the main translated from the notes of Dr. Brix on the *Captivi* (3rd ed., 1876), and the *Trinummus* (2nd ed., 1873), where reference was made to that play in a note on the *Captivi*. But I have not hesitated to omit or abridge many of his annotations, or to add others of my own, where I thought that by so doing I should make this edition more suitable for the class of readers for which it is intended. My own additions I have, so far as possible, distinguished by square brackets. Here, again, I desire to acknowledge my obligations to the notes on the *Captivi* by Ussing, as well as to several articles by Geppert, Lorenz, and other scholars in various periodical publications. I have been able to adopt the view of F. Martins (*Quaestiones Plautinae*, Berlin, 1879) as to the absence of the two 'Captives' from the stage during the first Act.

The section of the Introduction which treats of the Prosody of Plautus, I have translated and abridged from the "Einleitung" to the *Trinummus* by Dr. Brix (2nd ed., 1873); for the last paragraph on Hiatus at the end of this section, I am myself responsible.

In conclusion, I would say that there is probably no play of Plautus or Terence so suitable for school reading as the *Captivi*. Whether or not we accept the judgment of Lessing, who considered it to be the best play of its kind ever produced on the stage,\* all must agree that it abounds in humour and interest, and is at the same time particularly free from that grossness which makes Plautus a difficult subject to read with a class. The boast of the Epilogue is on the whole well justified:

*Spectatores, ad pudicos mores facta haec fabulast.*

E. A. S.

THE COLLEGE, GLASGOW,  
Nov. 1, 1879.

\* Lessing, Kritik über Die Gefangenen von Plautus. "Die Gefangenen sind das schönste Stück, das jemals auf die Bühne gekommen ist, . . . weil es der Absicht der Lustspiele am nächsten kommt, und auch mit den übrigen zufälligen Schönheiten reichlich versehen ist."