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PLAUTUS
THE CARTHAGINIAN
PSEUDOLUS
THE ROPE



Translated by
PAUL NIXON

PLAUTUS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

PAUL NIXON
江苏工业学院图书馆

THE LITTLE CARTHAGINIAN

SEUDOPUS
THE ROPE
藏书章



HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
LONDON, ENGLAND

First published 1932
Reprinted 1951, 1959, 1965, 1980, 1996, 2006

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ISBN 0-674-99286-5

*Printed on acid-free paper and bound by
Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, Michigan*

THE GREEK ORIGINALS AND DATES OF THE PLAYS IN THE FOURTH VOLUME

IN the Prologue¹ of the *Poenulus* we are told that the Greek name of the comedy was Καρχηδόνιος, but who its author was—perhaps Menander—or who the author of the play which was combined with the Καρχηδόνιος to make the *Poenulus* is quite uncertain. The time of the presentation of the *Poenulus* at Rome is also uncertain: Hueffner² believes that the capture of Sparta³ was a purely Plautine reference to the war with Nabis in 195 B.C. and that the *Poenulus* appeared in 194 or 193 B.C.

The date, however, of the Roman presentation of the *Pseudolus* is definitely established by the didascalia as 191 B.C. Geographical and military allusions in the play make the year 309 B.C. or 308 B.C.⁴ a probable time for the production of its Greek original. But whether the Greek play was written by Menander, Philemon, or someone else is doubtful.

¹ *Poen.* Prol. 53.

² Hueffner, *De Plauti Comoediarum Exemplis Atticis*, 34–35.

³ *Poen.* 663–665.

⁴ Cf. Hueffner, 11–16

THE GREEK ORIGINALS

The *Rudens* was adapted from a play of unknown title by Diphilus.¹ Warfare in Sicily made it unlikely that Labrax would have been tempted to try business there² either before the island came under the control of Agathocles, or after the death of Agathocles. Gripus' ambition, also, to found a *regnum magnum*,³ like the successors of Alexander the Great, seems to Hueffner⁴ additional evidence that the original of the *Rudens* was presented between 303 and 290 B.C. The *Rudens* itself appears to have been first staged between 200 and 190 B.C.

¹ *Rud.* Prol. 32.

² *Rud.* Prol. 54-56; cf. 541.

³ *Rud.* 935.

⁴ Hueffner, 67.

SOME ANNOTATED EDITIONS OF PLAYS
IN THE FOURTH VOLUME

Pseudolus, Auden; Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1896.

Pseudolus, Lorenz; Berlin, Weidmann, 1876.

Pseudolus, Morris; Boston, Allyn and Bacon, 1890.

Rudens, Marx; Leipzig, Hirzel, 1928.

Rudens, Sonnenschein; Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1901.

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POENULUS
OR
THE LITTLE CARTHAGINIAN

ARGVMENTVM

Puer septuennis surripitur Carthagine.
Osor mulierum emptum adoptat hunc senex
Et facit heredem. deinde eius cognatae duae
Nutrixque earum raptae. mercatur Lycus,
Vexatque amantem. at ille cum auro vilicum
Lenoni obtrudit, itaque eum furto alligat.
Venit Hanno Poenus, gnatum hunc fratris repperit
Suasque adgnoscit quas perdiderat filias.

PERSONAE

AGORASTOCLES ADULESCENS
MILPHIO SERVUS
ADELPHASIVM }
ANTERASTILIS } PUELLAE
LYCVS LENO
ANTAMONIDES MILES
ADVOCATI
COLLYBISCVS VILICVS
SYNCERASTVS SERVVS
HANNO POENVS
GIDDENIS NUTRIX
PVER

ARGUMENT OF THE PLAY

A seven-year-old boy was kidnapped from Carthage. An old woman-hater purchased this boy, adopted him, and made him his heir. Later two of the boy's relatives, girls, were stolen, and their nurse with them. Lycus buys them and torments the young lover. But the lover's bailiff with a bag of gold is fubbed off upon the pimp, so implicating him in theft. Hanno the Carthaginian arrives, finds the lover to be his nephew, and recognizes his long-lost daughters.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

AGORASTOCLES, *a young gentleman of Calydon.*

MILPHIO, *his slave.*

ADELPHASIUM } *girls bought by Lycus.*
ANTERASTILIS }

LYCUS, *a pimp.*

ANTAMONIDES, *a soldier.*

COUNSELLORS, *acquaintances of Agorastocles.*

COLLYBISCUS, *bailiff of Agorastocles.*

SYNCERASTUS, *slave of Lycus.*

HANNO, *a gentleman of Carthage.*

GIDDENIS, *nurse of Adelphasium and Anterastilis.*

A SLAVE BOY, *belonging to Hanno.*

PROLOGVS

Achillem Aristarchi mihi commentari lubet :
inde mihi principium capiam, ex ea tragoedia.
“sileteque et tacete atque animum advortite,
audire iubet vos imperator”—histricus,
bonoque ut animo sedeate in subselliis,
et qui esurientes et qui saturi venerint :
qui edistis, multo fecistis sapientius,
qui non edistis, saturi fite fabulis ;
nam cui paratumst quod edit, nostra gratia
nimia est stultitia sessum impransum incedere. 10

Exsurge, praeco, fac populo audientiam.
iam dudum exspecto, si tuom officium scias :
exerce vocem, quam per vivisque et ¹ colis.
nam nisi clamabis, tacitum te obrepet fames.
age nunc reside, duplicem ut mercedem feras.²

Bonum factumst, edicta ut servetis mea.
scortum exoletum ne quis in proscaenio
sedeat, neu lictor verbum aut virgae muttiant,
neu dissignator praeter os obambulet 20
neu sessum ducat, dum histrio in scaena siet.
diu qui domi otiosi dormierunt, decet
animo aequo nunc stent, vel dormire temperent.
servi ne obsideant, liberis ut sit locus,
vel aes pro capite dent ; si id facere non queunt,

¹ Corrupt (Leo) : *vales* Geppert.

² Leo notes lacuna here: *factumst* Pylades: *bonum factum esse* MSS.

Scene :—*Calydon. A street in which stand the houses of Agorastocles and Lycus.*

PROLOGUE

I have a mind to imitate Aristarchus' *Achilles*. Aye, I shall take my exordium from that tragedy. (*grandiloquently*) "Silence! Hush ye, and turn hither your attention! Hearken! 'Tis the command of the general"—(*chuckling*) manager of this troupe who wants you to sit in your seats with good cheer, both those who have come here famished and those who have come here full. You that ate showed much more sense; you that ate not, eat your fill of show. For a man with a meal before him, because of us, to stalk in and sit here empty, is more than foolish.

(*loudly*) Crier! Rise and bid this crowd give ear! I have long been waiting to see if you knew your duty. Exercise that voice that lets you live and flourish. For unless you bellow, you'll silently starve away. (*after the Crier has vainly tried to quiet the house*) There now, sit down, if you want your pay doubled!

(*to audience ironically*) So good of you to observe my edicts! (*with high authoritativeness*) Let no well-ripened wanton take seat upon the stage, nor licitor murmur, or his rods, nor usher ramble around in front, or show a seat, while an actor is on the boards. Those who have stayed too long at home in idle sleep should now stand in patience, or else sleep in moderation. Let no slaves crowd in, but leave room here for free men, or else pay cash for manumission; in case they cannot, let them go

TITUS MACCIUS PLAUTUS

domum abeant, vitent ancipiti infortunio,
ne et hic varientur virgis et loris domi,
si minus curassint, quom eri reveniant domum.
nutrices pueros infantis minutulos
domi ut procurent neu quae spectatum adferat,
ne et ipsae sitiant et pueri pereant fame
neve esurientes hic quasi haedi obvagiant.
matronae tacitae spectent, tacitae rideant,
canora hic voce sua tinnire temperent,
domum sermones fabulandi conferant,
ne et hic viris sint et domi molestiae.

30

Quodque ad ludorum curatores attinet,
ne palma detur quoiquam artifici iniuria
neve ambitionis causa extrudantur foras,
quo deteriores anteponanantur bonis.
et hoc quoque etiam, quod paene oblitus fui :
dum ludi fiunt, in popinam, pedisequi,
inruptionem facite ; nunc dum occasio est,
nunc dum scriblitae aestuant, occurrite.

40

Haec quae imperata sunt pro imperio histrico,
bonum hercle factum pro se quisque ut meminerit.

Ad argumentum nunc vicissatim volo
remigrare, ut aequae mecum sitis gnarures.
eius nunc regiones, limites, confinia
determinabo : ei rei ego finitor factus sum.
sed nisi molestumst, nomen dare vobis volo
comoediai ; sin odiosum, dicam tamen,
siquidem licebit per illos quibus est in manu.
Carchedonius vocatur haec comoedia,¹
latine Plautus Patruus Pultiphagonides.
nomen iam habetis. nunc rationes ceteras

50

¹ Leo notes lacuna here: *comoedia graece, latine P. P.*
Ritschl.

PROLOGUE

home and shun a twofold catastrophe—rod welts here and whip welts there, if their masters come back home to find their work undone. And nurses, let nurses attend to their tiny brats at home, let not one bring them to this play, for the nurses may get dry and the children starve to death, or go maamaaing here for food like so many young goats. Matrons are to view this play in silence, laugh in silence, temper here their tuneful chirping, take their prittle-prattle home, and not be a nuisance to their husbands here as well as there.

Now for what concerns the Directors of the games—let no artist gain the palm unfairly, let none be crowded out through partiality, so allowing worse men to supplant their betters. Yes, and another matter, which I had almost forgotten—lackeys, while the show is on, storm the bakeshop! Now while you have the chance, now while the tarts are hot, charge!

These be the general orders issued for the general-management, and 'twill be well, by heaven, that each man remember them for himself.

Now I wish to revert again to the Argument of this play, that you may be as well informed as I am. Its bounds, limits, and confines I shall now determine: I have been selected as its surveyor. But if you do not object, I wish to give you the name of this comedy; of course, if you do object, I shall tell you anyway—that being duly authorized by those in charge. It is called *Carchedonius*, Plautus giving it the Latin title of *Uncle Papeater*.¹ There you have its name. Now let me make the

¹ *Pultiphagonides* may refer to Plautus, the Latin title being *Patruus*.

TITUS MACCIUS PLAUTUS

accipite; nam argumentum hoc hic censebitur:
 locus argumentost suom sibi proscaenium,
 vos iuratores estis. quaeso, operam date.

Carthaginienses fratres patruelles duo
 fuere, summo genere et summis ditiis; 60
 eorum alter vivit, alter est emortuos.
 propterea apud vos dico confidentius,
 quia mihi pollicitor dixit qui eum pollinxerat.
 sed illi seni qui mortuost, ei filius,
 unicus qui fuerat, ab divitiis a patre
 puer septuennis surripitur Carthagine,
 sexennio prius quidem quam moritur pater.

Quoniam periisse sibi videt gnatum unicum,
 conicitur ipse in morbum ex aegritudine: 70
 facit illum heredem fratrem patruellem suom,
 ipse abit ad Acheruntem sine viatico.
 ille qui surripuit puerum Calydonem avehit,
 vendit eum domino hic diviti quoidam seni,
 cupienti liberorum, osori mulierum.
 emit hospitem is filium imprudens senex
 puerum illum eumque adoptat sibi pro filio
 eumque heredem fecit, quom ipse obiit diem.
 is illic adulescens habitat in illisce aedibus.

Revertor rursus denuo Carthaginem:
 si quid mandare voltis aut curarier, 80
 argentum nisi qui dederit, nugas egerit;
¹ qui dederit, magis maiores nugas egerit.

Sed illi patruo huius, qui vivit senex,
 Carthaginiensi duae fuere filiae,
 altera quinquennis, altera quadrimula:
 cum nutrice una periere a Magaribus.

¹ Leo brackets *verum* preceding *qui*.

¹ So termed throughout the play, though really a cousin of Agorastocles' father.

² A park outside Carthage.

PROLOGUE

rest of my report, for this Argument is to be examined here like an Income Tax Return: the office at which to submit a Return on Argument is its own stage, and you are the Commissioners. Your attention, please.

There were two Carthaginian cousins, of distinguished family and fortune; one of them is living, the other is deceased. I make this statement to you with the more assurance, because it was made to me by the undertaker who did his undertaking. But the son, the one and only son, of that old gentleman who died was stolen away from his affluent home in Carthage and from his father when he was a seven-year-old boy, this occurring six years before his father's death.

Seeing that his only son was lost to him, the father fell sick from grief; he made that cousin his heir and departed unto Acheron, without funds for the trip. The man who stole the boy carried him to Calydon, and sold him as a slave to a certain rich old man here who longed for children but hated women. This old man bought the lad without knowing that he was the son of a family friend of his, adopted him, and made him his heir on his own demise. And that house there (*pointing*) is the residence of this young man.

I now intend to take another trip to Carthage: anyone of you, with commissions or affairs for me to attend to, must supply me with cash, or it will do him no good; if he does supply it, it will do him a great deal less good.

Well, our lad's Carthaginian uncle,¹ still alive but old, had two daughters, one five years of age, the other four: along with their nurse they disappeared completely from Magara.² The person

eas qui surripuit, in Anactorium devehit,
 vendit eas omnis, et nutricem et virgines,
 praesenti argento homini, si leno est homo,
 quantum hominum terra sustinet sacerrumo. 90
 vosmet nunc facite coniecturam ceterum,
 quid id sit hominis, cui Lyco nomen siet.
 is ex Anactorio, ubi prius habitaverat,
 huc commigravit in Calydonem hau diu,
 sui quaesti causa. is in illis habitat aedibus.

Earum hic adulescens alteram efflictim perit,
 suam sibi cognatam, imprudens, neque scit quae siet
 neque eam umquam tetigit, ita eum leno macerat: ¹
 quia amare cernit, tangere hominem volt bolo. 101
 illam minorem in concubinatum sibi
 volt emere miles quidam, qui illam deperit.

Sed pater illarum Poenus, postquam eas perdidit,
 mari terraque usquequaque quaeritat.
 ubi quamque in urbem est ingressus, ilico
 omnes meretrices, ubi quisque habitant, invenit;
 dat aurum, ducit noctem, rogitat postibi
 unde sit, quoiatis, captane an surrupta sit,
 quo genere gnata, qui parentes fuerint. 110
 ita docte atque astu filias quaerit suas.
 et is omnis linguas scit, sed dissimulat sciens
 se scire: Poenus plane est. quid verbis opust?

Is heri huc in portum navi venit vesperi,
 pater harunc; idem huic patruos adulescentulo est:
 iamne hoc tenetis? si tenetis, ducite;

¹ Leo brackets following vv., 99-100:

*neque quicquam cum ea fecit etiamnum stupri
 neque duxit umquam, neque ille voluit mittere.*

¹ Lycus, "wolf."

² Vv. 99-100: Nor has he ever had intercourse with her, or taken her, nor has the pimp been willing to send her to him.