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Some Emendations of Silius Italicus

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The Classical Review / Volume 19 / Issue 07 / October 1905, pp 358 - 358

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00992126, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00992126

How to cite this article:

H. W. Garrod (1905). Some Emendations of Silius Italicus. The Classical Review, 19, pp 358-358 doi:10.1017/S0009840X00992126

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SOME EMENDATIONS OF SILIUS ITALICUS.

i. 613.

hirtaeque comae (†togae) neglectaeque mensa.

togae is the reading of Cm and of editors. Retaining *mensa* it is no doubt to be preferred to the *comae* of S. But Silius is thinking of 'barbati illi ueteres Romani'; and he wrote, I believe,

hirtaeque comae neglectaeque menta.

iii. 328-329.

mirus amor populo: cum pigra incanuit
aetas
imbellis iam dudum annos praeuertere
†saxo†.

For *amor* in 328 read *mos*, and in 329 for *saxo* (= *faxo*) read *fas est* (= *fas ē*).

v. 101-104.

Talia Coruinus, primoresque addere passim
orantium uerba et †diuisus quisque timori†
nunc superos, ne Flaminio, nunc deinde
precari

Flaminium, ne caelicolis contendere perstet.

In 102 the words *diuisus quisque timori* are clearly and obviously corrupt. The two lines that follow, however, give a fair clue to the idea which the corruption must conceal. The 'chiefs' are afraid of the demeanour both of the gods and of Flaminius. Following this clue, I would suggest that the corruption in the text is due to a confusion of contractions, and that Silius wrote

diui sunt uirque timori.

I imagine that *diui sunt*, written *diui s̄*, was mistaken for *diuisus* written *diuis̄*. *uirque* might easily pass into *uisque*, and the correction to *quisque* would then be inevitable. (I note from Statius, *Achill.* ii. 123, an interesting example of confusion due to the use of *s̄* for *sunt*: *tristes turbare Po triste suntur bare E.*)

v. 619.

antiquum expauere diem.

What they were alarmed at was the sudden near proximity of the upper to the lower world. Read

contiguum expauere diem.

The confusion (beginning with loss of initial letter) was perhaps assisted by such Biblical associations as *antiqui dies*, *antiquus dierum*.

vi. 459.

ad solitam sedem et uestigia nota uocabant.

They led him to his accustomed consular seat.

To describe this as *uestigia nota* is a very queer piece of diction. *uestigia* must, I think, have been caused by the presence of the same word in the same part of the line at 438 and 458. I would replace it here by *fastigia*—the consular dais.

H. W. GARROD.

YEWS AND SUICIDE.

As Mr. Garrod has called attention to Silius iii. 329, I should like to say a word for Ruperti's correction. If, as we may well contend, *saxo* is a scarcely possible condensation for the 'horribilis de saxo iactu deorsum' of Lucret. iii. 1016, then much the most probable emendation, whether we retain the *amor* of the MSS. in 328 or accept Mr. Garrod's attractive *mos*, is the change of a single letter to *taxo*. Only this must not be understood, as in xiii. 210 'letum triste ferens auras secat Itala *taxus*', but referred to the deadly yew leaves with which the aged and desperate Catuolcus poisoned himself after the defeat of Ambiorix. 'Catuolcus—aetate iam confectus cum

laborem belli aut fugae ferre non posset' (= *imbelles annos* here) 'omnibus precibus detestatus Ambiorigem qui eius consilii auctor fuisset *taxo*, cuius magna in Gallia Germaniaeque copia est, se exanimauit.' Caesar *B.G.* vi. 31. 5.

Here, it is true, we are dealing with Cantabri. But the yew of Spain was the most deadly of all; Pliny *H.N.* xvi. § 50 'mas noxio fructu. letale quippe bacis in *Hispania praecipue* est; uasa etiam uiatoria ex ea uinis in Gallia facta mortifera fuisse compertum est.'

An occurrence chronicled in the daily papers affords an interesting parallel. I quote from the *Globe* of August 17, 1905.