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Advanced Latin: Caesar

Dealing with textual criticism

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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So what about Caesar?

- Through Reynold's paper, you've had an overview of
 - the historical background of textual criticism
 - key issues that affect textual transmission
 - Stemmata and their limitations
 - Different types of textual contaminations...
 - ...and editorial efforts to address them
 - Typical scribal errors
- This vidcast focusses on how this affects the text we have in front of us, and our use of it

Know your editions

- Three main series of Greek and Latin texts take responsibility for a full assessment of the textual critical aspects of their editions:
 - Oxford Classical Texts (*Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis*)
 - Teubner (*Bibliotheca scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana*)
 - Budé (*Société d'édition Les belles lettres*)
- Other texts and commentaries often include a textual apparatus and discussion of the text, but are much less extensive

Knowing where your editor stands

- The preface of a critical edition sets out the editor's assessment both of the tradition (e.g. stemmata) and of individual manuscripts or early editions
- There's a strong tradition of writing these prefaces in Latin: but it is also deliberately kept reader-friendly
- Compare our editions:

The *sigla*

- Immediately before the first chapter starts, a separate reference page summarises info about manuscripts, their ages, and where relevant, early editions
- This is vital for understanding the information given below the text
- Newer editions also give information about the editorial marks used
- Right: OCT Columella Rodgers 2010

S = Petropolitanus Clas. Lat. F v 1, s. IX

S¹ = manus prima

S² = corrector uel correctores, s. IX

S³ = corrector correctoris, s. IX

A = Ambrosianus L 85 sup., s. IX

A¹ = manus prima

A² = corrector, s. XV

A^ˆ = locus 11. 2. 40 (*medi*)ocres . . . 11. 2. 50 *uacat* post
11. 2. 76 *tempestas non iteratus*

R = consensus codicum recentiorum qui aliquid auctoritatis
sibi uindicare uidentur (u. praef.), s. XV

R* = lectio in aliquot codicibus classis R inuenta

ς = lectio in uno uel pluribus e codicibus recentioris aevi
inuenta quae coniecturae, ut uidetur, tribuenda est

Perraro citantur codices qui excerpta continent (u. praef.):

P = Parisinus latinus 13955, s. IX

N = Parisinus Nouv. acq. lat. 1630, s. XI

< > = addenda

{ } = delenda

↔ = eadem uoces inuerso ordine positae

rubr. = uerba quae litteris maiusculis quasi capitulorum tituli
leguntur in SAR*, omittuntur in R*

| = distinguuntur §§

*** = lacuna

What is in our textual *apparatus*?

tributorum aut iniuria potentiorum premuntur, sese in ser-
vitutem dicant nobilibus, *quibus* in hos eadem omnia sunt
3 iura quae dominis in servos. Sed de his duobus generibus
4 alterum est druidum, alterum equitum. Illi rebus divinis 10
intersunt, sacrificia publica ac privata procurant, religiones
interpretantur: ad hos magnus adolescentium numerus dis-
ciplinæ causa concurrit, magnoque hi sunt apud eos honore.
5 Nam fere de omnibus controversiis publicis privatisque con-
stituunt et, si quod est admissum facinus, si caedes facta, 15
si de hereditate, de finibus controversia est, idem decernunt,
6 draemia poenaeque constituent: si qui aut relictus aut
11 conveniunt eorumque decretis iudicusque parent. Disci-
plina in Britannia reperta atque inde in Galliam translata

8 *quibus add. Dinter* 16 decernunt *T*: discernunt *aU* 27
post druidum add. adlegitur B

tiorum premuntur, sese in servitutem dicant nobilibus;
in hos eadem omnia sunt iura quae dominis in servos. 3
5 Sed de his duobus generibus alterum est druidum,
alterum equitum. Illi rebus divinis intersunt, sacri- 4
ficia publica ac privata procurant, religiones inter-

of a council of war held by Roman officers.

§ 2. Dinter, perhaps unnecessarily, adds *quibus* after *nobilibus*.

§ 3. *equitum* here means 'knights', not 'cavalry'. The 'knights'

- But why is there no indication of the big textual discussion Rice Holmes has on *ad hos...concurrit* in Du Pontet's OCT edition?

How should we use this info?

- For our seminar, think about how the information in the prefaces and apparatus influences your use of the text
- Does everyone need to be a textual critic?
- Should it change your use of a certain passage?
- Have you already encountered passages where the text itself poses important questions?