

CAMBRIDGE GREEK AND LATIN CLASSICS

---

GENERAL EDITORS

P. E. EASTERLING

*Regius Professor Emeritus of Greek, University of Cambridge*

PHILIP HARDIE

*Fellow, Trinity College, and Emeritus Honorary Professor of Latin, University of Cambridge*

NEIL HOPKINSON

*Fellow, Trinity College, University of Cambridge*

RICHARD HUNTER

*Regius Professor of Greek, University of Cambridge*

†E. J. KENNEY

*Kennedy Professor Emeritus of Latin, University of Cambridge*

S. P. OAKLEY

*Kennedy Professor of Latin, University of Cambridge*

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-76624-1 — Plautus: Pseudolus  
David Christenson  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-76624-1 — Plautus: Pseudolus  
David Christenson  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

PLAUTUS  
PSEVDOLVS

DAVID CHRISTENSON  
*University of Arizona*



Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-76624-1 — Plautus: Pseudolus  
David Christenson  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521766241](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521766241)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781139028363

© Cambridge University Press 2020

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Plautus, Titus Maccius, author. | Christenson, David M. (David Michael), editor.

TITLE: Plautus: Pseudolus / David Christenson.

OTHER TITLES: Pseudolus | Cambridge Greek and Latin classics.

DESCRIPTION: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2020. |

SERIES: Cambridge Greek and Latin classics | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019059918 | ISBN 9780521766241 (hardback) | ISBN 9781139028363 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Plautus, Titus Maccius. Pseudolus.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PA6568 .P8 2020 | DDC 872/.01—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019059918>

ISBN 978-0-521-76624-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-14971-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

---

## CONTENTS

---

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page vii</i>
 Introduction	
1 <i>Plautus the Playwright</i>	1
2 <i>The Roman Appropriation of Greek Comedy</i>	4
3 <i>Pseudolus: Plot, Characters and Poetics</i>	24
4 <i>Language</i>	47
5 <i>Music and Metre</i>	52
6 <i>Text and Transmission</i>	63
7 <i>Reception</i>	65
T. MACCI PLAVTI PSEVDOLVS	67
Commentary	111
<i>Bibliography</i>	359
<i>Indexes</i>	380
<i>Subjects</i>	380
<i>Latin Words</i>	394
<i>Index locorum</i>	396

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-76624-1 — Plautus: Pseudolus  
David Christenson  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

---

## PREFACE

---

Years ago I was dissuaded from writing a commentary on *Pseudolus* by the report that H. D. Jocelyn was preparing just such an edition, and instead I eventually published a Cambridge ‘Green and Yellow’ on another Plautine masterpiece, *Amphitruo* (2000). Unfortunately, Professor Jocelyn’s death prevented his lengthy labours on *Pseudolus* from seeing the light of day. Returning to this project in recent years, I was able to benefit enormously from the insightful publications on various aspects of the play and Plautus in general that Professor Jocelyn bequeathed to us – this volume is much richer because of them. Professor Jocelyn is just one of a host of brilliant scholars who to this day have led a rediscovery and re-evaluation of Plautus’ not always fully appreciated comic genius. Whereas my decision to focus on Plautus in my PhD comprehensive exams elicited some snickers and sneers in the late 1980s, the Plautine renaissance of recent decades has forged a secure and respected place for the comedies within contemporary Classics curricula. Plautus has emerged anew, intact and fresh, if still a little scarred by his former secondary status among antiquity’s comic playwrights: Plautine comedy, like Pseudolus himself, has a strong back (cf. *Ps.* 1325). My dependence on, and deep gratitude for, my fellow Plautinists’ stimulating contributions can be readily glimpsed throughout this volume.

Special thanks are owed to the friends and colleagues who over the course of this project patiently endured conversations with me about it or commented on sections of the commentary: Michael Fontaine, Boris Shoshitaishvili, Christopher Trinacty, Gonda Van Steen, Cynthia White, and David Wright. Walter Stockert most generously read the entire commentary with a keen eye for its metrical issues (any errors remaining there are my own). University of Arizona graduate students Elizabeth Harvey, Patrick Meusel, Collin Moat, Meaghan Nielson, Daylin Oakes, Catherine Shenck, and Grace Welch-Zaricor offered helpful suggestions on an early draft. A Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship allowed me time away from teaching to launch this project.

Series editors Philip Hardie and Stephen Oakley provided gracious, perceptive, and thoughtful guidance throughout the process. Michael Sharp at the Press kindly supplied versions of Timothy Moore’s scanions of Pseudolus’ *cantica* (from *Music in Roman Comedy*) for me to work from. Iveta Adams’ superb editing was indispensable in the production process. Incalculable, longer-term debts of gratitude are owed to Ted Kenney, who exerted his incisive and elegant influence on my writing,

and to Robert Renehan, who showed me the infinite value of meticulous reading free of its too frequently concomitant myopia. This commentary aims to elucidate some of *Pseudolus*' deceptively simple complexity, playful provocativeness, piquancy, and enduring relevance, and, above all, to help make Plautus accessible to new audiences.