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978-1-107-42687-0 - The Annals of Quintus Ennius  
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EDITED BY  
ETHEL MARY STEUART

CLASS. TRIP. CAMB.  
M.A. LOND., D. LITT. EDIN.

*Ottolie Hancock Fellow of Girton College,  
Cambridge, Lecturer in Latin  
in the University of  
Edinburgh*



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*To*  
**MY HONOURED TEACHER**  
**A . E . HOUSMAN**

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## PREFACE

It is a remarkable fact that while the importance of the *Annales* of Ennius is universally recognised by students of classical literature, the fragments have not hitherto been edited with English notes. Even at this late date, therefore, the present is in a sense a pioneer work, and as such may have the good fortune to go some way towards supplying a real need. Critically, my aim throughout has been to distinguish what is actually known to be genuine from all that is attributed to Ennius by conjecture only. Hence I have admitted to the body of the text nothing of which the authorship is not specifically vouched for by our authorities; lines quoted “anonymously,” which appear to be authentic are placed in an appendix following the book to which they would naturally belong, while more doubtful cases are reserved for the general appendix A (*Fragmenta Dubia*). Asterisks distinguish those lines which are placed doubtfully in the books in which they stand. Within the books, I have endeavoured to arrange the lines in the order which seems, wherever it is possible to trace the development of the theme, to offer that which is most natural and harmonious. It is here that the sharpest divisions of opinion are bound to arise, but I have carefully indicated in the commentary all points in which the generally accepted arrangement and interpretation differ from my own proposals. Excursus I (on the narrative of the Punic Wars) is a case in point. The same problem is intensified in those books, such as the first, of which we possess a large number of fragments. Here an interesting suggestion, which has a high degree of *prima facie* probability, is that Macrobius in his series of quotations

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(*Sat.* VI. 1. 11–15) follows the actual order of the text of Ennius. But the traditional interpretation of *Nec pol homo*, etc. (quoted in VI. 1. 15) and *Accipe daque fidem*, etc. (quoted in VI. 1. 13), from which I have seen no reason to depart, compels us to reverse Macrobius' order, while my own explanation of *Quom superum*, etc. (quoted in VI. 1. 14) makes it the earliest of the three (*cf.* notes *ad loc.*<sup>1</sup>). In matters so controversial, individual interpretations of detached fragments and scattered lines cannot commend themselves to all critics, but I have sought, without fanciful reconstructions, to present a consistent picture of the whole poem as a work of art.

Reference has been made throughout to the following editions:

J. Vahlen, First edition, Leipzig 1854 (V1); Second edition, Leipzig 1903 (V11).

L. Müller, as given in the *Corpus Poetarum Latinorum* (of Postgate), representing the 1888 revision of his text of 1884 (M).

L. Valmaggi, Torino 1900 (Val.).

G. Pascoli, in *Epos*, Livorno 1911 (P).

To other books references are made as they arise in the course of the commentary; but I must specially acknowledge my debt to the great work of Vahlen, to the stimulating *Ennius und Vergilius* of Professor E. Norden, and to the *Early Latin Verse* (as well as to a multitude of other publications by the same author) of the *doyen* of such studies in Great Britain, Professor W. M. Lindsay.

My thanks are due to the following also for much help

<sup>1</sup> The fragments in question are those numbered by me 12, 19, 32, 37, 41. Following Macrobius we should accept 12, 19, 41, 32, 37 as the correct order.



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of various kinds: the late Monsignor Duchesne of the French School at Rome; the late Professor James Seth of Edinburgh; Emeritus Professor E. V. Arnold, Bangor; Dr T. Ashby, The British School at Rome; Professor R. S. Conway, Manchester; "Mm. La Direction," Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; Dr P. Giles, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Professor H. Stuart Jones, Oxford; Mrs Arthur Strong, British School at Rome; Professor W. J. Watson, Edinburgh. I have further to thank my brother, the Rev. F. A. Steuart, M.A., B.D., who supplied the substance of my note on Book VII, Fr. 3 (on Sarra as a name for Tyre), and my father, John A. Steuart, to whose constant interest, no less than to his wide literary experience, I owe so much.

For grants of money in aid of this work I am indebted to the Mistress and Council of Girton College, Cambridge, and the Court of the University of Edinburgh, acting as trustees of the Earl of Moray Endowment Fund.

Finally, I must record my obligation to the readers of the Cambridge Press for their unfailing skill and care.

E. M. S.

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