

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Classics

From the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, Latin and Greek were compulsory subjects in almost all European universities, and most early modern scholars published their research and conducted international correspondence in Latin. Latin had continued in use in Western Europe long after the fall of the Roman empire as the lingua franca of the educated classes and of law, diplomacy, religion and university teaching. The flight of Greek scholars to the West after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 gave impetus to the study of ancient Greek literature and the Greek New Testament. Eventually, just as nineteenth-century reforms of university curricula were beginning to erode this ascendancy, developments in textual criticism and linguistic analysis, and new ways of studying ancient societies, especially archaeology, led to renewed enthusiasm for the Classics. This collection offers works of criticism, interpretation and synthesis by the outstanding scholars of the nineteenth century.

Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Richard Porson (1759–1808) published editions of Euripides' *Hecuba* (1779), *Orestes* (1798), *The Phoenician Women* (1799) and *Medea* (1801) as individual volumes. They were collected and published together in 1826, some years after Porson's death, as *Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor*, edited by James Scholefield (1789–1853). The volume contains Porson's reconstructed Greek text of the four tragedies accompanied by a detailed Latin commentary. The volume is introduced by a Latin preface and a supplement expounding Porson's theories on the metrical rules followed by Attic poets. These theories about metre lay behind many of the choices of readings found in the critical text of each play. Porson's critical texts of the plays influenced generations of scholars, and his commentaries were widely studied, both in Latin and in English translation, for over a century. The volume remains a key work of classical scholarship.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

EDITED BY RICHARD PORSON
AND JAMES SCHOLEFIELD
EURIPIDES



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor
Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108011204

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1826

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-01120-4 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor
Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

**EURIPIDIS TRAGŒDIÆ
PRIORES QUATUOR.**

**AD FIDEM MANUSCRIPTORUM EMENDATÆ
ET BREVIBUS NOTIS
EMENDATIONUM POTISSIMUM RATIONES
REDDENTIBUS INSTRUCTÆ.**

EDIDIT

RICARDUS PORSON, A. M.

GRÆCARUM LITERARUM APUD CANTABRIGIENSES
OLIM PROFESSOR REGIUS.

RECENSUIT SUASQUE NOTULAS SUBJECTIT

JACOBUS SCHOLEFIELD, A. M.

COLLEGII SS. TRINITATIS SOCIUS
ET GRÆCARUM LITERARUM PROFESSOR REGIUS.

CANTABRIGIÆ

TYPIS AC SUMTIBUS ACADEMICIS
EXCUDIT JOANNES SMITH.

VENEUNT APUD J. DEIGHTON ET FILIOS, CANTABRIGIÆ,
C. ET J. RIVINGTON, LONDINI.

M.DCCC.XXVI.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

EDITORIS PRÆFATIO.



QUID in hoc opusculo præstiterim, æquus judicet Lector; quid præstare conatus sim, paucis accipiat.

Id igitur imprimis curavi, ut quas olim fabulas Euripideas summa eruditione illustraverat, summa purgaverat diligentia Porsonus, eæ nunc tandem prodirent accuratius quam antehac, ne dicam ornatus, ipsius Porsoni typis impressæ. Piget enim memorare, quod in omnibus sæpissime accidit, id quanto sæpius in libello acciderit Porsoniano; ut scilicet errores, qui in unam irrepserant editionem, sequentibus fere omnibus inurerentur, neque de sede sua socialiter cedere essent dignati. Unum e pluribus sume exemplum, *et crimine ab uno disce omnes*. In Med. 50. dederat prior editio Lipsiensis (1802.) sensu frustra reclamante, ἀντήν. Pulcherrimam hanc lectionem fideliter servavit editio Londinensis, 1812. Deinde anno 1818. Elmsleius in loc. maculam fœdissimam monstravit; a quo tamen frustra moniti typographi illi, qui anno 1821. Medeam Londini imprimendam susceperant, eundem publici juris fecerunt errorem, et ad hunc usque diem lectoribus tradiderunt. Alia hujusmodi, quamvis non desint alia, vix opus enumerare.

Porsoni textum, quem omni ex parte adeo elaboratum Vir egregius reliquerat, ipse in paucissimis, iisque etiam levissimis, innovandum putavi. Si Euripidem de novo edere instituissem, plura sunt quæ post Schæferi, Matthiæi, Elmsleii, aliorum curas limatiora forsitan evadere potuissent; pauca quædam, quæ e novis subsidiis, quibus caruit Porsonus, arcessita sunt; pauca, quæ eximia nostrorum temporum diligentia e tenebris eruta et regulis certioribus confirmata exhibuit. Neque est cur quis miretur, vel id summo Viro vitio vertat, si ipse aliquando aut non viderit, aut minus accurate viderit, quod alii post eum, ipso præferente facem, clariori luce acceptum perdidicerunt. Is sane quasi in diluculo harum exortus est literarum, paucioribus præeuntibus, et nemine fere adjuvante; ut facile sit nobis homunculis gloriari hoc vel illud, quod minus forsitan perspectum habuerit Porsonus, hodie vel tironibus notum esse. Si quis tamen idpropter Porsonum fastidiose contemnat, sciat is quantum inter artis principem intersit et imitatore; sciat quam non discipulos deceat magistrum, a quo velut fonte uberrimo sua omnia hauserunt, contemptui habere. Quicquid sane in his rebus profecimus, id oportet vel maxime acceptum referamus Porsono.

Quod ad hujus opusculi rationem attinet, ipse nihil aliud in animo habui, nisi ut Euripidem Porsonianum lectori in manus traderem, ita emendatum ut legi posset, ita quoque ornatum ut Academiam nostram magni Alumni sui non puderet. Cum vero quibusdam id optandum videretur, ut si quid

EDITORIS PRÆFATIO.

v

Porsonus infectum reliquisset, id quodammodo suppleretur; si quid supplevisset recentiorum industria, id in unum colligeretur; laborem, studiosæ forsân juventuti utilem futurum, suscepi, ea tamen lege, non ut Porsonianis admiscerentur mea, sed ut Porsoni pagina separatim exhiberetur, et ab alienis additamentis linea divideretur. Illam igitur supra lineam totum habes Porsonum: quicquid est infra, id omne vel meum est, vel a me aliunde petium. Poteris igitur, si velis, posthabitis aliis, *ἅπασιν τιμῶν τὴν μακράν*, et inter summum Criticum legendum sedulo cavere, ne vel oculus vel animus alio distrahatur.—Talem autem distinctionem commodiorem judicavi, quam qua usus est Dobræus noster desideratissimus in Aristophanicis.

“Interpretandi et illustrandi labore” nemo nescit Porsonum “supersedendum duxisse.” Neque, quod omiserat ille, ego suppeditare conatus sum; quod esset novum librum confingere, non veterem recensere. Hic illic tantummodo ad interpretis vicem accessi, ubi quædam vel paullo difficiliora, vel ab aliis male interpretata mihi viderentur.

Quæ in textu immutavi, hæc atque talia fere sunt. Pro Porsoni *πιτυῶ* scripsi ubique ex Elmsleii monitu *πίτυω*. (Vid. ad Hec. 23.) Eidem viro doctissimo assensus sum statuenti secundam dualis numeri personam a tertia non esse diversam. (*εὐδαιμονοίτην*, Med. 1069.) In scribendis *ὄ τι*, ab *ὄστις*, et similibus, Porsono vel typographis ejus nullo modo obsequendum putavi, qui puncto ineptissimo vocem dissecabant (*ὄ, τι*); quasi scilicet nulla alia ratione

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholefield

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

EDITORIS PRÆFATIO.

lectori dijudicandum esset inter pronomen et conjunctionem. Quod meo arbitrio facturum eram, id jam antea fecerant Bekkerus, Elmsleius, alii, ut insulsam illam expungerent distinctionem.

Qui vero in aliis a Porsono parce et illibenter discessi, in punctis disponendis majorem meo iudicio licentiam permisi. Rem per se sane levem, sed ad sensum enodandum plurimum facientem, mirum quam neglexerit Vir summus, maioribus, ut vere ait Schaeferus, intentus. Hac in parte spero me nonnihil gratiæ cum lectoribus initurum; in qua tamen cum plurima ipse mihi correxisse visus essem, horum non pauca postea inveni a Schaefero solita sua diligentia et iudicio præoccupata. Hujus igitur gloriolæ, si qua sit, socium eum habere non gravabor; vel etiam, si velit æquus Lector, ipse solus habeat.

Inter eos, qui post Porsonum mortuum curas in Euripidem impendere dignati sint, primum sibi locum sine controversia vindicat Matthiæus; cui soli inter recentiores id obtigit, ut telam, quam orsus fuerat Porsonus, pertexeret, et Euripidem totum, pluribus in locis textu emendatiorem, in omnibus præclara eruditione illustratum, exhiberet. Miror diligentiam Viri egregii, qui, quicquid omnes omnium gentium de Euripide scripserint, suum fecit, et undique ex hac vel illa Ephemeride collegit quodcunque poëtæ suo lucis aliquantulum afferret. Is plerumque merito honore Porsonum prosequitur, et quæ mutuam sumsit, fatetur: sunt tamen in quibus, ut mihi videtur, vix æquum se iudicem et æstimatorem præbuit, imo paullo acerbius errores summi Viri, siqui sunt, per-

EDITORIS PRÆFATIO.

vii

strinxit. Id vero nulla alia in re sæpius accidit, quam in iis quæ ad metra pertinent; in quibus sane quidam harum artium magistri adeo jactanter rem gesserunt, et rei leviori tantam tribuerunt dignitatem, ut iratiores fuerint Porsono, si quid in his minutiis hic illic offenderit. Quid, quod nec ipsum Euripidem æquo animo ferant, quod metricarum deliciarum adeo imperitus rem tragicam ausus sit tractare? Audiamus enim Hermannum, Præfat. ad Hecub. p. 63. “Si hic (Euripides) quædam sibi indulsit, quæ peritiores vitare sciebant, satis habebimus eum reprehendere, quod invitis Musis ad poësin accesserit.”—Esto igitur: sed nec usque adeo “invitis Musis” Medeam aliasque fabulas condidit nobilissimas; neque in eo omnis Tragœdiæ vis et dignitas constat, ut nec solutiores nec graviore fluant pedum numeri. Atque hæc scribo, non quasi suum rei metricæ, quisquis sit, honorem et auctoritatem derogare velim; nec quasi viris doctissimis, qui Euripidi tantum diligentia sua et doctrina profuerunt, invidiam concitem: sed ut suam quoque Porsono nostro laudem integram et inviolatam reservem, cujus acri et limato judicio gravius videbatur, si mentem poëtæ in textu puriori fideliter repræsentaret, quam si metra subtilius adæquaret, et versus conficeret alterum alteri accuratissime respondentem.

Quod ad ipsum attinet Euripidem, non sum ego ex illorum numero, qui nihil in eo pulchrum, nihil grande, nihil cothurno dignum inveniant. Sit sane suum cuique judicium: me vero iudice, qui has ipsas quatuor diligenter perlegerit fabulas, ei dubium esse

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01120-4 - Euripidis Tragoediae Priores Quatuor

Edited by Richard Porson and James Scholfield

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

EDITORIS PRÆFATIO.

non potest, quin illum ipsum in Tragœdia locum optime occupaverit, quem vacuum fere reliquerant magni æmuli; ut Musam misericordiæ vi demulceret suavissima, et hominibus ob oculos homines, *ολοί εἶσιν*, exhiberet. Eos igitur fructus ex Euripide nostro et præstantissimo ejus Editore Porsono Lector velim reportet, ut ad illam Atticæ linguæ dulcedinem uberrimam plenius hauriendam excitetur.

Restat ut humanissimorum Preli nostri Academici Syndicorum beneficium grate commemorem; quibus equidem gratulor, quod Porsonum dignum censuerint, qui suis ipse tandem typis ornaretur; gratias autem ago quam maximas, quod meipsum non indignum judicaverint, cui tale opus mandaretur.

Corrigat velim Lector benevolus erratum per humanam incuriam admissum in not. ad Orest. 248. lin. 11. ubi legendum *Scolio* quivis viderit; quæcunque autem alia deprehenderit, si possit, ignoscat.

