Stavros A. Frangoulidis · Handlung und Nebenhandlung

DRAMA

Beiträge zum antiken Drama
und seiner Rezeption

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in der römischen Komödie

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*To the Memory of my father Antonios
and my grandmother Polyxena*

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P r e f a c e

This study focuses on characters of Roman Comedy who perform the role of the poet within the play by constructing and carrying out schemes as performances. These characters are often set against one another, or against the play's poet himself in an attempt to impose their own version of the performance as the authoritative one. In this sense they create a form of *agon* as they re-enact the context of rivalry and competition of poets and actors for the theatrical *palma* in the various Roman festivals at which plays were performed.

This concept of rivalry and poetic competition is illustrated in detail by the study of comic schemes in several plays by both Plautus and Terence. Admittedly, these schemes reflect only one aspect of comic poetics. The appendix traces elements of New Comedy plots in Apuleius' comic tale of *Cupid & Psyche* and is intended as an example of a theatrical reading in genres related to or influenced by New Comedy.

The introductory chapter contains a brief discussion of my earlier work on Plautus' *Captivi* and Terence's *Eunuchus*, published as independent articles in *Mnemosyne* 49 (1996) 144-158 and *LCM* 18 (1993) 146-151 respectively. Chapter 2 revises significantly an earlier article that appeared in *BSiLat* 25 (1995) 397-425. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the editor, Professor Fabio Cupaiuolo for permission to use material included in that work.

I owe special thanks to several scholars who have read sections of the manuscript in various stages of its composition and offered useful comments and expert advice. Stephen V. Tracy read and commented on the introductory chapter. Charles L. Babcock offered most useful suggestions on both the introductory chapter and chapter 1. Maria C. Pantelia extensively commented on the introduction and chapters 1 and 3 and offered warmest encouragement. June W. Allison read a version of chapter 2. I have greatly benefited from comments and criticism offered by Stephen J. Harrison, David Konstan, Niall L. Slater and Maaïke Zimmerman-de Graaf on the appendix, devoted to Apuleius' tale of *Cupid & Psyche*. Finally, thanks are due to G. Savantides for his interest in and best wishes for the project.

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I have used the *OCT* edition of the text of Plautus, edited by W.M. Lindsay (Oxford 1980). All quotations of Terence are to the *OCT* edition of R. Kauer, W.M. Lindsay and O. Skutsch (Oxford 1977). The text of the *Metamorphoses* is quoted from the Teubner edition by R. Helm (Leipzig 1968). The English translations of Apuleius' text which I have included come from the Loeb edition of J.A. Hanson (Cambridge, Mass. 1989).