**Zeitschrift:** Museum Helveticum: schweizerische Zeitschrift für klassische

Altertumswissenschaft = Revue suisse pour l'étude de l'antiquité

classique = Rivista svizzera di filologia classica

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Vereinigung für Altertumswissenschaft

**Band:** 45 (1988)

Heft: 3

Artikel: Siliana

Autor: Watt, W.S.

**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-35147

## Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

## **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

## Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

**Download PDF: 21.08.2025** 

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

By W.S. Watt, Aberdeen, Scotland

1, 239ff. hae postquam Tyrio gentes cessere tyranno utque dati rerum freni, nunc arte paterna conciliare uiros armis, consulta senatus uertere, nunc donis.

The young Hannibal comes to power at Carthage. He wins over the Carthaginians (*uiros*), and overturns the decrees of their senate, partly by his father's guile and partly by bribery.

Delz is certainly right in returning to this punctuation, which recognizes the anaphora nunc ... nunc. He takes armis as ablative, 'by his exploits in war', parallel to the following donis; but I think that it is arte paterna (= dolo) which is parallel to donis, and that armis is dative (= bello); so Ruperti, 'ad belli societatem sollicitare', i.e. to make war on Rome. Compare 268ff. rumpere foedera certus, / quo [sc. bello] datur, interea Romam comprendere bello / gaudet: as an interim measure he involves the Romans in war in Spain; a greater war (272) will come later.

2, 93ff. Cres erat, ...

Dictaeos agitare puer leuioribus annis
pennata saltus adsuetus harundine Mopsus.

I do not think that *leuioribus annis* is adequately defended by such expressions as grauis annis. Bauer and Delz report Bentley's emendation melioribus, but without referring to the passages which Bentley adduced in support: Sen. Contr. 1, praef. 1 meliores ad annos respicere; Sen. Dial. 10, 18, 1 maior pars aetatis, certe melior; Sen. Herc. f. 851 pars ... melioris aeui. I add Ov. Trist. 4, 10, 93f. iam mihi canities pulsis melioribus annis / uenerat. The corruption of mel to leu is of a well-known type.

- 2, 293ff. ergo armis foedus fasque omne abrumpitur armis, oppida quassantur, longeque in moenia nostra Aeneadum arrectae mentes, disiectaque pax est.
  - \* The following modern editions are referred to: G. A. Ruperti (Göttingen 1795, 1798); L. Bauer (Leipzig 1890, 1892); W. C. Summers in Postgate's *Corpus Poetarum Latinorum*, vol. 2 (London 1905); J. D. Duff (Loeb edition, London 1934); J. Delz (Stuttgart 1987). Reference is also made to Housman in *The Letters of A. E. Housman*, ed. H. Maas (London 1971) and to S. B. = D. R. Shackleton Bailey, Class. Quart. 9 (1959) 173–180. I am most grateful to Professor Delz for commenting on an earlier version of these notes.

In the Carthaginian senate Hanno inveighs against Hannibal's warmongering.

Line 293 has always been punctuated as above, but I think that the comma should come before and not after the second *armis*, which then stands in anaphora. For *armis* (= *bello*) *oppida quassantur* cf. 302f. *muros / oppugnat*, *Carthago, tuos teque obsidet armis*. Silius sometimes allows a much heavier stop than this after the fifth foot; e.g. at 5, 645; 7, 148. 223. 592; 14, 104.

2, 395ff. ecce autem clipeum saeuo fulgore micantem Oceani gentes ductori dona ferebant, Callaicae telluris opus, galeamque coruscis subnixam cristis e.q.s.

The peoples of western Spain bring gifts to Hannibal.

The plural dona in apposition to the singular clipeum might be supported by 6, 647f. ingentem pascens Meuania taurum, / dona Ioui, but there the singular taurum is a collective singular (= tauros). In our passage it would be more natural if (as in Duff's translation) dona were a true plural introducing all of the five gifts which Silius proceeds to list. This result can be obtained by a transposition:

ecce autem gentes ductori dona ferebant Oceani, clipeum saeuo fulgore micantem, Callaicae e.q.s.

3,529ff.

ardua supra

sese aperit fessis et nascitur altera moles, unde nec edomitos exsudatosque labores respexisse libet: tanta formidine plana exterrent repetita oculis.

Hannibal's army struggles up the Alps.

In 532 plana has caused unnecessary trouble. Duff follows the explanation supplied to him privately by Housman (p. 428): 'I suppose plana must be even (not level) tracts, with all irregularities of surface obliterated by the snow.' Delz, clearly sceptical of this explanation, emends to prona. But I think that plana is sound and was rightly explained by Ruperti: 'plana quae arduis et praeruptis opponuntur'. As they struggle up the heights they do not care to look back, over those which they have already scaled, to the level ground at the foot, because the sight terrified them; plana occurs at 4, 749 and 9, 617.

3, 597ff. hinc pater ignotam donabit uincere Thylen inque Caledonios primus trahet agmina lucos.

Jupiter prophesies the victorious campaigns of Vespasian in Britain (A.D. 43ff.).

All editors before Delz have accepted *donabit* without query; this is surprising, because the word is meaningless in this context. Delz alters to *denabit*, a compound of *nare* which is otherwise unattested. But there is no need to invent a nonce-word when it is so easy to write *durabit*, 'persevere in'; this verb is not often construed with an infinitive, but of the few instances listed in ThLL V 1, 2297, 78ff. three are from Silius (10, 652; 11, 75; 15, 213). It is not a valid objection to *durabit* that Vespasian did not in fact conquer Thule; no more did he lead an army into the Caledonian forests, or sail his ships on the 'Caledonian Ocean' (Val. Fl. 1, 8).

4, 5ff. [Fama] diros canit improba motus et gliscit gressu uolucrique citatior Euro terrificis quatit attonitas rumoribus arces.

Delz adopts Damsté's *capit* for *canit*, but the latter is, I think, guaranteed by Verg. Aen. 4, 190 (likewise of *Fama*) pariter facta atque infecta canebat. However, it means not 'prophesied' (Duff) but 'recounts', 'harps on', ϑρυλεῖ; this passage is therefore correctly placed in ThLL III 268, 26. I take *motus* to be *belli tumultus* (ThLL VIII 1536, 84ff.), as at 1, 20; 14, 110; 15, 289.

4, 300f. ductore amisso pedibus se credere Celtae; una spes anima tantusque pependerat ardor.

On the death of their leader the Gauls take to flight.

I suggest that the contrast with *una* demands *totus*, not *tantus*; the two words are frequent variants, as at 308 below. The *unus / totus* contrast recurs at 423f. plus petit improbus uno / consulis exitio tota quam strage cadentum.

5, 600ff. haec pompa sequetur exsequias, seroque emptum uolet impia Roma non uiolasse mei corpus mucrone Sychaei.

Hannibal threatens to make Rome pay dearly for the death of his beloved Sychaeus.

Sero, though retained by all editors, does not cohere with emptum, which requires some indication (either an ablative or an adverb) of the price paid. This was first realized by Bentley, who also proposed what I think is still the best emendation (though it is not mentioned by any editor except Bauer), caro; this form of the adverb, which is an easy change, is found three times in [Quint.] Decl. mai. (references in Håkanson's Index), in Decl. min. 253, 4, and occasionally later. Independently of Bentley, Schrader suggested care; this form is more frequent than caro but not very much more frequent (ThLL lists only 10 occurrences). In preference to either of these, editors mention Thilo's auro, which is definitely inferior.

6, 307ff. iam Martem †ciere† atque astus adiungere ferro et duris facilem per inhospita ducere uitam haud isti, quem nunc penes est sollertia belli, cederet Hannibali.

In the martial arts, and in enduring hardships, the Spartan Xanthippus is not inferior to Hannibal.

The vulgate is *regere*, which has little palaeographical probability. Delz prefers to read his own conjecture *scire*, but the parallels which he quotes (bellum discunt and militares artes scire) do not lend strong support. I suggest  $c\langle o \rangle$  lere, comparing 8, 462 haud parci Martem coluisse, 'no laggards in war' (Duff).

6, 411ff.

me uoce quieta affatus iubet et uestros et coniugis una arcere amplexus; patet impenetrabilis ille luctibus et numquam summissus colla dolori.

Marus describes how Regulus behaved towards his wife (coniugis) and his two sons (uestros) on his return to Rome as a Carthaginian prisoner.

The combination of patet with impenetrabilis seems impossible. Delz adopts Ruperti's pater (an easy change), construed with what precedes; it might be claimed that this strikes a suitably pathetic note, but I think that it is both untidy (with coniugis, as well as uestros, preceding) and otiose. A better sense results from Ruperti's other conjecture manet, construed with what follows; but preferable to manet, both in itself and also palaeographically, would (I suggest) be  $\langle s \rangle$  tetit (s lost by haplography;  $t \rangle p$ ); so just previously (394ff.) Regulus in the senate stetit ... inter tot gemitus immobilis. One is reminded of Dido in Verg. Aen. 6, 470f. nec magis ... uultum ... mouetur / quam si dura silex aut stet Marpesia cautes.

8, 372ff. non illis solitum crispare hastilia campo nec mos pennigeris pharetram impleuisse sagittis: pila uolunt breuibusque habiles mucronibus enses.

'uolunt multis suspectum', says Delz; the conjectures are uolant, ualent, colunt, uibrant. I think, however, that uolunt is sound: when 374 is taken in conjunction with 372–373, uolunt gets from the context the sense of malunt. So Duff, 'they prefer'.

9, 77f. at tum barbaricis Satricus cum rege cateruis aduectus e.q.s.

The bare ablative has aroused justifiable suspicion. The easiest remedy is  $tum \langle in \rangle$  barbaricis. For the elision of the monosyllable cf. 1, 257 cum; 13, 188 tam; 14, 353 dum (in the same metrical position as our tum).

9, 428ff. nam rapido subitam portans in morte salutem procursu incepta in sese discrimina uertit Scipio.

At the battle of Cannae Scipio rushes forward to save Varro's life.

'incepta cannot be salvaged, either by taking it with morte (Bauer) or otherwise'; so S. B. (p. 174). Although Delz still keeps incepta in his text, he acknowledges that he thinks S. B.'s conjecture excepta (with discrimina) right. But this would leave morte without a qualifier, and a qualifier is essential because Varro did not die at Cannae. I would read intenta (abl.), comparing Consol. Liu. 361 necem intentam; Val. Fl. 5, 339 intenta nece; Lucan 8, 568; OLD sense 7b; also Verg. Aen. 1, 91 intentant omnia mortem. Silius has intento igne at 17, 478.

10, 10ff.

uelocius inde

Haemonio Borea pennaque citatior ibat quae redit in pugnas fugientis harundine Parthi.

Since harundo cannot mean 'bow' (Duff), S. B. (p. 174) emends pennaque citatior to pennataque ocior, thus restoring to harundine its proper sense of 'arrow'. This ingenious emendation has been adopted by Delz, but it gives rise to doubts: (a) the supposed corruption seems unlikely, (b) pennaque citatior is unobjectionable in itself: penna = 'arrow' at 11, 412 and 15, 630, and citatus is a favourite word of Silius (citatior at 4, 6). I think it more probable that harundine has, because the context concerns arrows, displaced another expression which bears a superficial resemblance to it, viz. ab agmine (construed with fugientis). For this sense of agmen cf. 5, 377f. ex agmine Poenum / cedentem, 'Hannibal leaving the fighting line' (Duff); 13, 682 abrupto liquerunt agmine signa, 'broke their ranks and deserted our standards' (Duff).

10, 173ff.

iacet ingens Phorcys ab antris Herculeae Calpes, caelatus Gorgone parmam, unde genus tristisque †deae† manabat origo.

Phorcys, from Calpe, had Medusa's head engraved on his shield because he was descended from her.

'Exspectes tristisque uiro, nam certe de origine Phorcyos, non Gorgonis, loquitur poeta', says Delz. And there is a second reason for eliminating dea (in any form): Medusa was the only one of the three Gorgons who was not immortal. As a word which would fulfil the same function as uiro but be palaeographically more acceptable I suggest duci (dei and duci are variants at Ov. Trist. 3, 5, 26); in speaking of Hannibal and other leaders Silius is very fond of using dux as little more than an unemphatic pronoun; e.g. 1,147 tristia corda ducis (where Heinsius's conjecture duci is very plausible).

10, 365ff.

tunc uox effusa per auras:

'sat magna, o iuuenis, †pressa† est tibi gloria Cannis. siste gradum.'

Hannibal dreams that a divine voice warns him that he will not be allowed to capture Rome.

The humanist correction *prensa* has been adopted by all editors; it is certainly preferable to Drakenborch's *parta*, which is the banal expression (10, 445; 15, 654) and here devoid of palaeographical probability. But perhaps one might suggest *pensa*, 'paid out', 'vouchsafed' (OLD sense 3b); for the corruption cf. 11, 9, where Bentley's *pensurus* is rightly adopted by Delz for *pressurus*.

10, 608ff.

haud secus ac, fractae rector si forte carinae litoribus solus †uacuis† ex aequore sospes adnatet, incerti trepidant, tendantne negentne iactato dextras, ipsamque odere salutem unius amissa superantis puppe magistri.

Varro, returning alive from Cannae, is compared to a ship's captain who is the sole survivor of a shipwreck.

Vacuis has seldom been queried, but it is rightly obelized by Delz. Damsté would substitute patriis, Delz tentatively suggests notis, but neither of these is a convincing change (one might also query whether the following lines really imply that the shipwrecked captain is swimming to his own home shores, since any shore will do when a man is swimming for his life). I suggest siccis, noting that litore sicco occurs three times in Virgil (Aen. 3, 135 and 510; 6, 162), once in Ovid (Met. 2, 870), and three times in Lucan (8, 726; 9, 148 and 447).

11, 20ff.

ora uadosi

litoris, Argiuos maior qua Graecia muros seruat et Ionio alluitur curuata profundo, laetas res Libyae et fortunam in Marte secuta iurauit pauitans Tyrio sua proelia Marti.

The cities of Magna Graecia defect to Hannibal after his victory at Cannae. Silius is often careless about word-repetition, but in this passage suspicion seems justified. This has been directed towards in Marte (23), but the suggested replacements listed by Delz are singularly unconvincing. So perhaps it is Marti (24) which should be changed, as being an erroneous repetition from the previous line. The obvious change, I think, is regi, i.e. Hannibali, as at 4, 131 (Tyrio canit omina regi), 4, 446 (Tyrio regi), and 5, 545 (Tyrio concurrere regi).

11, 90ff. excipit his frendens Fabius: 'pro cuncta pudendi! sedes ecce uacat belli uiduata procella: quem, quaeso, e uobis huic imposuisse paratis?'

At a meeting of the senate Fabius addresses the Capuan delegation which is demanding that one of the two consulships should always be filled by a Capuan.

'I dislike pro cuncta pudendi ... because cuncta is fatuously vague' S.B. (p. 175). I agree with this judgment, and also with the view that the three emendations reported by Bauer are quite unconvincing. I suggest procul ite, pudendi; then Fabius's short speech begins in the same tone of contemptuous dismissal as it ends (96f., addressed to Virrius, the leader of the delegation): i, demens, i quo tendis; tibi perfida fasces / det Carthago suos. In view of the last sentence it is possible that pudendi refers not only to Capua's disgraceful demand about the consulship but also to its disgraceful intention of defecting to Hannibal. For procul ite or abi(te) cf. Ov. Met. 13, 466; Stat. Theb. 11,669, Silu. 1,6,2; 2,7,131; 3,3,13; also Silius 17, 28f. procul hinc ... / ferte gradus.

11,163f. magnum atque in magnis positum populisque uirisque aduersa ostendere fidem.

The Capuan Decius argues that Capua should remain loyal to Rome.

The manuscripts vary over magnum, positum, aduersa, and ostendere, and there have been many attempts to constitute a satisfactory text. That given above is as close as any to the paradosis, and does yield an appropriate sense: 'it is adversity which shows (ostendere gnomic aorist) that loyalty is a great thing, implanted in great peoples and individuals'. Delz adopts the emendation of S.B. (p. 176), aduersa re stare fidem: 'it is a great thing that loyalty should stand firm in adversity'; the sense is excellent, but the changes are perhaps too high a price to pay for it.

12, 99ff. dumque dolori indulget subito motis ad pectora palmis, nescius heu! planctu duxit moderante uolatus.

'When Daedalus beat his breast in grief for his son, he found that the motion of his arms carried him along in the air' (Duff).

Delz is the first editor to query heu; surely with justification, since there is nothing to bewail in this line. He suggests huc (which would be picked up by hic in line 102). Another possibility might be hoc planetu (= dum sic pectora planegit).

12,152ff. monstrantur Vesuuina iuga atque in uertice summo depasti flammis scopuli fractusque ruina mons circum atque Aetnae fatis certantia saxa.

Hannibal visits Vesuvius.

Aetnae fatis, 'the death dealt by Etna', is incredible. The old emendation saxis gives good sense and may be right, but (a) it is surprising that saxis should ever have been corrupted to fatis, and especially here, where saxa follows so

soon; (b) some definition of these saxa would not come amiss, particularly because of the preceding scopuli. I propose to change one letter, an f to an l, and read Aetna elatis (sc. saxis), 'stones discharged from Etna'. For efferre of volcanic discharge see Sen. Epp. 51, 1 and 79, 2 ignis (sc. ex Aetna) ... effertur; Plin. Epp. 6, 16, 6 (nubes ex Vesuuio) elata in altum. Silius has more than a dozen instances of efferre with an ablative.

13, 47ff. tum meus adiuncto monstratam euadit in arcem Tydides Ithaco et dextra amolitus in ipso custodes aditu templi caeleste reportat Palladium ac nostris aperit mala Pergama fatis.

A descendant of Diomedes tells how his ancestor and Ulysses stole the Palladium from Troy, thus 'opening up' the city to the Greeks.

'Threw open Troy to our conquering fortunes' (Duff). This is difficult to accept. Perhaps fatis should be castris, which Silius is fond of using in the sense of copiis or militibus.

is trepido ac lituum tinnitu stare neganti imperitans uiolenter equo, postquam auribus hostis uicinum sese uidet et clamore propinquo 'Claudius huic' inquit ... 'det sese campo atque ineat certamina mecum.'

The Capuan Taurea challenges Claudius to single combat.

The only way of keeping both *imperitans* and *et clamore propinguo* is that of Housman (on Lucan 9, 12), who takes the ablative phrase as parallel to the postquam clause and linked to it by et; this seems an implausible construction. On the other hand Bauer's suggestion (adopted by Delz) et clamare propinguum, 'and (sees) that he is shouting near at hand', is likewise unconvincing; at the cost of two changes it produces an undesirable repetition of auribus hostis uicinum sese (sc. esse) uidet. Another suggestion is that of Lefebure, strongly supported by A. Y. Campbell in Class. Rev. 5 (1955) 138: sese uidet, 'en!' clamore propinquo / 'Claudius huic' inquit. Yet another expedient is Bauer's alteration of imperitans to imperitat (an easy change); then et links imperitat with clamore propinguo inquit: 'he halted his horse when he got within earshot of the enemy and shouted'. With either of the last two readings propinguo remains a repetition of what precedes. I suggest that it is a 'psychological' error (due to the context) for a word which superficially resembles it, viz. profundo (at Stat. Theb. 3, 692 profundo is found as a variant for propinguo). In a somewhat similar scene in the Thebaid (10, 760) Menoeceus, about to kill himself in the sight of the warring armies, despexitque acies hominum et clamore profundo / conuertit campum iussitque silentia bello.

13, 187ff.

rapiunt sibi quisque laborem. quos ubi tam erectos animi uidet et †superesse fortunam† sibi quemque ducem, ruit impete uasto ad portam magnaeque optat discrimina famae.

Fulvius, with his army in high spirits, assaults Capua.

The editors quote Liv. 22, 5, 7 (of the battle of Trasimene) tum sibi quisque dux adhortatorque factus ad rem gerendam, a passage which Silius may have had in mind at 9, 33 (of the same occasion) dux sibi quisque uiam rapito. This is very like 187 rapiunt sibi quisque laborem, but more relevant to 189 may be Appius Claudius, frag. 3 Morel, fabrum esse suae quemque fortunae, and Plaut. Trin. 363 sapiens quidem pol ipsus fingit fortunam sibi. Perhaps what we have in Silius is a variation of a proverbial phrase about each man being the architect of his own fortune or 'the bringer of fortune to himself'; in that case the old emendation of fortunam to fortunae must be right. It only remains to deal with superesse or super esse, neither of which can be made to yield tolerable sense. Now in two passages (6, 233 and 10, 247), where the paradosis is super, Delz seems right in adopting (from Summers and Damsté respectively) the emendation subit. The same corruption may have occurred here: 'when Fulvius saw that his men were in high spirits, and the proverb came to his mind.'

13, 671ff.

octaua terebat

arentem culmis messem crepitantibus aestas, ex quo cuncta mihi calcata meoque subibat germano †deuexa† iugum Tartessia tellus.

Eight years had passed since the two Scipio brothers conquered Spain.

Summers was the first editor to alter deuexa (which is meaningless); he read deuicta, and Delz (who obelizes) suggests defessa. Preferable to either of these, I believe, would be depressa. The common phrase is iugo premere; cf. ThLL VII 2, 641, 54ff., and add Sen. Herc. f. 1019, Ag. 134f., Oct. 413. However iugo deprimere is found at least once elsewhere, at Sen. Oed. 300 (bouem) numquam colla depressam (or -sum) iugo. The corruption of p to u can be paralleled, and perhaps an unfortunate recollection of 8, 360 deuexa iugo may have played a part. Compare also 13, 695 oppressa Hispania.

13, 680ff.

subito uenale, cohortes

Hispanae, uulgus, †Libyci quas fecerat auri† Hasdrubal, abrupto liquerunt agmine signa.

Some Spanish cohorts are bribed by Hasdrubal to desert the Romans.

Libyci auri was construed by Housman (p. 433) as a possessive genitive: 'literally "had rendered them the property of Punic gold", "the slaves or creatures of his bribery", so that they had no independence'. This view was followed by Duff, but I agree with S.B. (p. 177) that the phrase 'means neither

that nor anything else'. Between them Bauer and Delz (who obelizes, as above) report half-a-dozen attempts to rewrite the latter half of the line, none of them convincing. I think that the text is not corrupt but lacunose; a specimen supplement might be:

Libyci quas fecerat auri \langle pondere ut immemores sacrati foederis essent \rangle Hasdrubal e.q.s.

Silius is very fond of postponing the subject to the end of a clause or sentence.

14, 442f. has inter uoces tremulo uenit agmine cornus et Neptunicolae transuerberat ora Telonis.

'agmine de telo dictum caret exemplo', says Delz, and conjectures impete (as at 2,243). I think that aere is worthy of consideration: the air is said to tremble as the trembling or quivering spear passes through it. So at 17, 406f. contremuere aurae rapido uibrantibus hastis / turbine; cf. also 10, 118 cornus tremebunda, 2, 448 trementibus hastis, 15, 441 stridentem cornum, 13, 235 cornum sonantem.

15, 33f. quis furor hic, non digne puer, consumere bello florem aeui?

The beginning of Pleasure's address to Scipio.

Although all editors except Summers (who has no punctuation at all in the line) put a comma after *puer*, it should be deleted, and *consumere* construed with *non digne*. This was pointed out by Bentley; it is one of the few corrections made by him which are not reported by Bauer, and in consequence it has escaped the notice of editors. (Bentley's manuscript notes on Silius are to be found in his copy of Drakenborch's edition, now in the Cambridge University Library; they were published in the Classical Journal 3, 1811, 381ff.)

15, 455f. ille foro auditus dulci cum soluerat ora aeguabat Pyliae Neleia mella senectae.

The eloquence of C. Laelius.

Since dulcis is a very inappropriate epithet for the forum and a very appropriate one for Laelius, it has been traditional to alter dulci cum to cum dulcia, a double change which still leaves untouched the objectionable auditus; even if this is taken as the equivalent of a present participle ('while he was being listened to') it is completely otiose. All difficulties can be overcome by the transposition of a single letter: auditu dulcis, cum.

16, 312ff. inde refert sese circo et certamina prima incohat ac rapidos cursus proponit equorum. fluctuat aequoreo fremitu rabieque fauentum carceribus nondum reseratis mobile uulgus.

Scipio holds games in honour of his father and uncle.

Aequoreo fremitu is rendered by Duff 'with a voice like the sound of the sea', and in support of this Delz quotes Hor. Od. 3, 27, 23 aequoris nigri fremitum. I do not believe either in this interpretation or in any of the replacements which have been proposed (aequato, interea, incerto, aetherio). It seems possible that the last five letters of aequoreo conceal uario; cf. Verg. Aen. 12, 486 uario nequiquam fluctuat aestu; Paneg. 12 (9), 19, 2 innumerabilis multitudo ... impulsu uario fluctuare. The missing syllable, however, is not obvious; perhaps hic (= tum, as often in Silius) would be least objectionable.

16, 373ff.

nisusque apprendere primos Panchates animosus equos super altior ire et praecedentem iam iamque ascendere currum pone uidebatur.

The horse Panchates strives to catch up with the car in front of him.

Delz is the first to query super altior, and with some justification since super seems devoid of meaning. Perhaps sublimior, the word used of this same horse at 353 crescere sublimem ... putares and 398 fertur sublime per auras. The corruption could be explained by the inadvertent substitution of a synonym (altior) for sublimior, and consequent patching (super).

16, 540ff.

multoque cruore exsatiata simul portantes corda sub umbras occubuere. pari nisu per pectora adactus intima descendit mucro; superaddita saeuis ultima uulneribus uerba, et conuicia uoluens dirus in inuitas effugit spiritus auras.

Two brothers in single combat fall dead together.

At 17, 412 gentilemque bibit Tellus inuita cruorem ('Earth grieved as she drank the blood of her sons'), inuita has obvious point. In our passage the adjective has no such point: why should the air be reluctant to receive the spirits of these two brothers? Blass emended to inuisas, which is not appropriate of the aurae aetheriae (10, 577 et al.) but would be quite appropriate of the underworld (cf. 13, 425 and the other passages listed in ThLL VII 2, 197, 68ff.). In that case auras should be changed to oras (the two words are easily confused); for orae of the underworld cf. ThLL IX 2, 868, 60ff. It is true that this would repeat 541f. sub umbras / occubuere, but there is a similar repetition in uerba followed by conuicia.

Addendum. Following the example of A. Ker, Proc. Cambr. Philol. Soc. 13 (1967) 31, I correct some mistakes in the translation of J.D. Duff:

- 1, 112 te surgente not 'when you arise' but 'while you are growing up' (OLD sense 8b).
- 1, 269 quo datur not 'as far as he could' but 'in the war in which he could'.
- 6, 497 subito should be construed with uociferans, not with stans.
- 6, 649 dives praedae qualifies Picenum, not the subject of fundit.
- 9, 451f. quantumque uicissim / auderent not 'what he could dare to do' but 'what the other dared to do'.
- 9, 487 reuocat mentes not 'renewed his purpose' but 'renewed the courage' (of the Romans).
- 9, 535 longi laboris not 'her unending task' but 'the prolonged suffering' (of the Carthaginians).
- 10, 494 pignora pacis is in apposition not to Cloelia but to uirgineas cateruas.
- 11, 315f. parte relicta / tectorum not 'when they had left part of the building behind them' but 'in a deserted part of the building'.
- 12, 456 *per proxima* not 'through the surrounding country' but 'by the shortest route'.
- 13, 751 maiorque recessit imago not 'and his ghost seemed taller as he went away' but 'and his ghost, taller than he was in life, retired'.
- insultant pariter pelago not 'both fleets rode proudly on the wave' but 'the rowers [in the Roman fleet] strike the sea in unison' (cf. 13, 241; 11, 489).