

'true' MS reading *inter*.<sup>8</sup> Renaissance editors, as is well known, did not regard MS evidence very highly, often greatly to the detriment of the text itself. In this particular case, however, more studious examination of MS evidence actually led to error rather than improvement, since its reliance on the *paradosis* was at the expense of idiomatic Latin and better sense.

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### SILIUS ITALICUS 10.108 AND JUPITER'S EAGLES

(The text is that of the most recent edition of *Silius Italicus: Punica*, by Josef Delz [Stuttgart, 1987].)

armiger haud aliter magni Iouis, auxia nido  
cum dignos nutrit gestanda ad fulmina fetus,  
obuersam spectans ora ad Phaethontia prolem  
explorat dubios Phoebea lampade natos. 108

The thunderbolt-wielding eagles of Jupiter are masculine in some contexts (Virg. *Aen.* 5.255; Ovid *Met.* 15.386; Val. Flacc. 1.156; Sil. 4.126), and feminine in others (Stat. *Theb.* 3.532), but never both in one and the same passage. Here the gender is determined by the immutable *anxia*, and we require *armiger<a>*: the bird is after all engaged in mothering! In augural contexts in Silius, 4.120–7 and 17.52–5, on the other hand, the eagle is male (126) in the former, as may well be also the eagles of the latter (53 *armigerae* qualifies *volucres* and is, as normally, feminine).

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<sup>8</sup> The last editor of note to read *intra* without comment is F. H. Bothe (L. A. Senecae, *Tragoediae* [Lipsiae, 1819]).

### TERPSICLES (RE 1)\*

Terpsicles is neglected in all current Histories of Greek Literature and Dictionaries of Antiquity, except for a five-lines-long entry by E. Bux in *Real-Encyclopädie* V.A. 790. He is the author of a treatise *Περὶ ἀφροδισίων*, which is only known from two references in Athenaeus—7.325d and 9.391e—and seems to have been a collection of sex-related marvels. In the first passage he provides a piece of information on the red mullet:

ἐὰν δ' ἐναποπνιγῇ τρίγλη ζῶσα ἐν οἴνῳ καὶ τοῦτο ἀνὴρ πίῃ, ἀφροδισιάζειν οὐ δυνήσεται, ὡς Τερψικλῆς ἱστορεῖ ἐν τῷ περὶ ἀφροδισίων. καὶ γυνή δὲ πίῃ τοῦ αὐτοῦ οἴνου, οὐ κνίσκεται. ὁμοίως δὲ οὐδὲ ὄρνις.

The red mullet, carnivorous and lecherous, is the impure fish *par excellence*. While Aristotle asserted that it is extremely fertile, breeding thrice per annum—to which fact it allegedly owes its name<sup>1</sup>—the notion of its antaphrodisiac qualities due to its

\* I thank Prof. C. Collard for various improvements and suggestions.

<sup>1</sup> Impurity: R. Parker, *Miasma* (Oxford, 1983), 362–3; fertility: Aristotle, *H.A.* 543a5 ἢ δὲ τρίγλη μόνη τρίς (sc. τίκτει), Athenaeus 7.324d, Oppian, *Hal.* 1.590.