

**Vat. Lat. 3417 and Its Relationship to the Text
of Macrobius' *Saturnalia* 7**

SISTER MARY JOSEPHA CARTON, B.V.M.

CLARKE COLLEGE

In his scholarly treatise, "Studi sulla tradizione dei *Saturnali* di Macrobio,"¹ of 1953, Antonio La Penna advanced the theory of a three-fold grouping of the extant manuscripts of Macrobius' *Saturnalia*. He assumed that these three families were formed at the beginning of the ninth century. Some four years later J. A. Willis, after a careful re-examination of certain codices, published his findings² and concluded that La Penna's attempt to distribute the codices into three families was untenable. Willis maintained that there are only two groups. In the preface to his latest Teubner edition of the *Saturnalia* (Leipzig 1963) he implements this conclusion.

It is regrettable that in assigning *sigla* to the various codices Willis overlooked La Penna's selection. D, for example, in La Penna's work represents Cotton Vitellius C III, while D in Willis's text signifies Bodleianus Auct. T II 27. Similarly, Vaticanus Reginensis 1650 is R in La Penna's work, and V in Willis's text. Finally, and more importantly for our purposes here, Vaticanus Reginensis 2043 is V in La Penna's classification, and R in Willis's. The writer of this article, employing Willis's edition for the *textus receptus* for this study, deemed it advisable for that reason to use the *sigla* which he adopted.

Comparatively numerous are the manuscripts which contain the first three books of the *Saturnalia*, while few indeed are those which contain the entire seven books. For Book 7, Willis employs six manuscripts and these he divides into two groups. The first comprises:

¹ Antonio La Penna, "Studi sulla tradizione dei *Saturnali* di Macrobio," *Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa* 22 (1953) 225-52.

² J. A. Willis, "De codicibus aliquot Macrobiani *Saturnalia* continentibus," *RhM* 100 (1957) 152-64.

- N Neapolitanus V B 10 (s. ix in.) which contains the seven books of the *Saturnalia* up to 7.5.2;
- P Parisinus 6371 (s. xi);
- T Matritensis Escorial. Q. l. l. (s. xv).

The second group includes:

- R Vaticanus Reginensis 2043 (s. x) which contains the seven books of the *Saturnalia* up to 7.14.11;
- F Florentinus Laurentianus plut. 90 sup. 25 (s. xii);
- A Anglicus vel Cantabrigiensis nunc bibl. univers. 260, to which Willis assigns no date.³

Neither La Penna nor Willis in the previously mentioned publications included Vaticanus Latinus 3417 (s. xii), hereafter referred to as J, nor has this manuscript been employed in the preparation of any critical edition of the *Saturnalia* up to the present time. No doubt its omission has been due to the fact that there is no printed catalogue for this portion of the Vatican collection, and an incomplete enumeration of the contents of J appears in the handwritten inventory.

Codex J is of parchment, written for the most part in a late Carolingian script (s. xii), in single columns of 29 lines.⁴ The first four books of the *Saturnalia* are contained in folia 1^r to 90^v. A marginal notation in a late fifteenth century hand on fol. 90^v indicates that there is lacking here about one book of Macrobius (actually Books 5 and 6 are omitted), in place of which are recorded certain miracles ascribed to St. Nicholas.⁵ This passage, written in Gothic (s. xiii) in single columns of 22 lines, occupies fol. 90^v–92^r. Book 7 of the *Saturnalia*, written in the same hand as the first four books, resumes at fol. 93^r and continues through fol. 127^v.

For the final portions of his text, Willis depends on only four manuscripts, since N breaks off at 7.5.2 and R at 7.14.11. These

³ P. K. Marshall in his review of Willis's text (*CR* 78 [1964] 169–71) points out among other deficiencies that the Preface is too brief. The omission noted here is a case in point.

⁴ The author wishes to express her thanks to the Directors of The Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library at St. Louis University for permission to make use of a microfilm copy of Codex Vat. Lat. 3417, and also to Professor Chauncey E. Finch for his invaluable assistance in the preparation of this paper. Examination of the actual manuscript might necessitate minor changes in the material presented here.

⁵ Boninus Mombritius, *Sanctuarium seu Vitae Sanctorum* (Paris 1910) 2.306–7.

he assigns to the early ninth and tenth centuries respectively. It is immediately apparent, then, that J is one of the oldest extant manuscripts which contain the whole of Book 7 of the *Saturnalia*. It is my purpose to demonstrate here the close affinity of J to R and to point out that, in consequence of this relationship, J can supply significant data for the final pages of the text (approximately 350 lines), following the break-off point of R.

J shares a large number of errors and omissions with one or more members of the RFA group. The first reading listed in the following citations is that adopted by Willis:

- | | | | |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| 7.1.1 | <i>remotis</i>] <i>remotas</i> RA ¹ J | 7.5.4 | <i>potuisse</i>] <i>potuisset</i> RAJ |
| 7.1.1 | <i>philosophicis</i>] <i>philosophis</i> RFA ¹ J | 7.5.8 | <i>Atyes</i>] <i>aeges</i> PRFJ, <i>eges</i> TA |
| 7.1.2 | <i>reverenda</i>] <i>verecunda</i> TRAJ | 7.5.13 | <i>potus alia</i>] om. RFAJ |
| 7.1.2 | <i>penetralibus</i>] <i>penetrabilibus</i> RAJ | 7.5.17 | <i>vero simplex sucum</i>] <i>vero cui adest sucum</i> J, <i>simplex cui adest sucum</i> TRFA |
| 7.1.4 | <i>hanc veniam</i>] <i>hac venia</i> NPRFJ | | |
| 7.1.5 | <i>huius modi</i>] <i>eiusmodi</i> TRAJ | 7.5.17 | <i>nutriantur</i>] <i>nutrientur</i> RFAJ |
| 7.1.6 | <i>scholis</i>] <i>scolis</i> PTR ² FAJ | 7.5.18 | Graec. om. TRFAJ |
| 7.1.12 | <i>subolem</i>] <i>sobolem</i> PTFAJ | 7.5.19 | Graec. om. TRFAJ |
| 7.1.14 | <i>iustum</i>] <i>iustae</i> RAJ | 7.6.4 | <i>a vini potu</i>] <i>a vino potu</i> TRFJ |
| 7.1.15 | <i>faciles tamen</i>] <i>facilesque</i> TRAJ | 7.6.8 | <i>serunt</i>] <i>ferunt</i> RFAJ, <i>erunt</i> PT |
| 7.1.17 | <i>si ut</i>] <i>sicut</i> RAJ | 7.6.16 | <i>et</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.1.18 | Graec. om. TRFAJ | 7.6.18 | <i>est</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.1.19 | Graec. om. TRFAJ | 7.7.16 | Graec. om. TRFAJ |
| 7.1.19 | <i>digerendo</i>] <i>dicendo</i> TRAJ | 7.7.18 | <i>de</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.1.21 | <i>incitabunt</i>] <i>incitarunt</i> RFAJ | 7.7.18 | <i>in</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.1.23 | Graec. om. TRFAJ | 7.8.1 | <i>insectione</i>] <i>insecutione</i> RFAJ |
| 7.2.3 | <i>interrogatione</i>] <i>interrogando</i> RFAJ | 7.8.4 | <i>scire aveo</i>] <i>scire habeo</i> RFAJ |
| 7.2.9 | Graec. om. TRFAJ | 7.9.13 | <i>sectionis</i>] <i>sectioni</i> TRFJ |
| 7.2.15 | Graec. om. TRFAJ | 7.9.26 | <i>Euge</i>] <i>litteris Graecis</i> scr. RFAJ |
| 7.3.5 | <i>loedoriae</i>] <i>ledoriae</i> PTRAJ | 7.10.4 | <i>et</i>] <i>ut</i> RFAJ |
| 7.3.8 | <i>quattuordecim</i>] <i>XIII</i> NRFAJ | 7.10.5 | <i>δυσκράσιαν</i>] <i>ΔΙΣΚΡΑΣΙΑΝ</i> RFAJ, om. T |
| 7.3.15 | <i>genere</i>] om. RFAJ | 7.10.9 | <i>naturali</i>] <i>non naturali umore</i> RFAJ |
| 7.3.15 | <i>temporibus</i>] <i>temporis</i> RAJ | 7.10.12 | <i>ut</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.3.15 | <i>atquin</i>] <i>atqui</i> RFAJ | 7.11.2 | <i>adulescentium</i>] <i>adolescentium</i> PRAJ |
| 7.3.22 | <i>Lycurgo</i>] <i>licurgo</i> PTRFAJ, <i>ligurgo</i> N | 7.11.8 | <i>timentes</i>] <i>timent</i> FA ¹ |
| 7.3.24 | <i>Plutarchus</i>] <i>plutharcus</i> NRAT ¹ FJ | 7.11.8 | <i>tremunt</i>] <i>tremunt</i> RFA ¹ J ¹ , |
| 7.4.5 | <i>patiuntur quia constat id genus alimoniae non magis copia quam varietate</i>] om. RFAJ | 7.12.2 | <i>salita</i>] <i>sallita</i> R ¹ FA ² J |
| 7.4.7 | <i>vitari</i>] <i>vitari</i> R ² FAJ, <i>mutari</i> NPTR ¹ | 7.12.5 | <i>duo</i>] <i>duos</i> PAJ |
| 7.4.15 | <i>haec</i>] <i>hoc</i> NRFAJ | 7.12.7 | <i>tanto</i>] <i>quanto</i> RA ² J |
| 7.4.16 | <i>καθεκτικὴν</i>] <i>ΚΑΘΕΑΚΤΙΚΗΝ</i> RFJ | 7.12.7 | <i>quanto</i>] <i>tanto</i> RAJ |
| 7.4.21 | <i>illae</i>] <i>illa</i> RAJ | 7.12.17 | <i>et</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.5.1 | <i>qui</i>] <i>quia</i> RAJ | 7.12.19 | <i>quoquo</i>] <i>quoque</i> RFAJ |
| 7.5.2 | <i>labyrinthis</i>] <i>labinthis</i> PTRAJ, <i>labinthis</i> N | 7.12.26 | <i>resoluta</i>] <i>soluta</i> RFAJ |
| | | 7.12.26 | <i>autem</i>] om. RFAJ |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7.12.31 <i>Bosporicum</i>] <i>bosphoricum</i> RFAJ | 7.13.10 <i>simulacra</i>] om. RFJ, <i>aras</i> A |
| 7.12.31 <i>Cimmerium</i>] <i>cimerium</i> PRJ,
<i>simerium</i> A | 7.13.11 <i>in</i>] om. RAJ |
| 7.13.5 <i>cibatum</i>] <i>cibum</i> RFAJ | 7.13.12 <i>seu ex ferro</i>] <i>sive ex ferro</i> RAJ |
| 7.13.6 <i>rettulit</i>] <i>retulit</i> RFAJ | 7.13.26 Graec. om. TRFAJ |
| 7.13.9 <i>est</i>] om. RFAJ | 7.14.4 <i>manare</i>] <i>manere</i> RA ¹ J |
| | 7.14.4 <i>ultrō</i>] <i>ultra</i> RAJ |

In addition to the instances cited above in which J agrees with one or more members of the RFA group, there are to be found also the following cases in which J agrees with R against all other manuscripts:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7.1.2 <i>sit</i>] om. RJ | 7.9.21 <i>quo de</i>] <i>quod de</i> RJ |
| 7.1.22 <i>thyrsō</i>] <i>thirso</i> RJ | 7.10.1 <i>πολιοκροτάφους</i>] <i>ITOMOKPOTA-</i>
<i>ΦΟΥΣ</i> RJ |
| 7.2.7 <i>ut haec</i>] <i>ut hic</i> RJ | 7.10.3 <i>hemisphaeria</i>] <i>emisepheria</i> RJ |
| 7.2.12 <i>non audebat</i>] <i>non debebat</i> RJ | 7.10.11 <i>nisi crebro</i>] <i>nisi in crebro</i> (in
<i>cerebro</i> R) RJ |
| 7.3.2 <i>categoria</i>] <i>categoria</i> RJ | 7.12.19 <i>non in totum</i>] <i>non in motum</i> (in
<i>notum</i> R) RJ |
| 7.3.21 <i>Cynicum</i>] <i>cinicum</i> RJ | 7.12.38 <i>praeventa</i>] <i>proventa</i> RJ |
| 7.4.22 <i>morborum</i>] <i>membrorum</i> RJ | 7.13.14 <i>anuli</i>] <i>anulo</i> RJ |
| 7.4.32 <i>sedandam</i>] <i>sedanda</i> RJ | 7.13.17 <i>me in omni</i>] <i>mei nominis</i> RJ |
| 7.4.32 <i>et</i>] om. RJ | 7.14.2 <i>repercussa</i>] <i>percussa</i> RJ |
| 7.5.1 <i>de</i>] om. RJ | |
| 7.5.25 <i>per os</i>] <i>post</i> RJ | |
| 7.8.3 <i>illic</i>] <i>illi</i> RJ | |
| 7.9.17 <i>sphaeralis</i>] <i>et sphaeralis</i> RJ | |

Thus far we have noted points of similarity between J and R. Lest we conclude too rashly that J was copied from R, let us consider next the instances in which J agrees with the majority of manuscripts, represented by the reading of the Willis text, against R in error. Here the first reading is that of J and Willis. The second is that of R and, in some cases, of additional manuscripts.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7.1.10 <i>sonare</i>] <i>sociare</i> RA ¹ | 7.5.32 <i>luxum</i>] om. RA |
| 7.1.13 <i>Antisthenen</i>] <i>anthistenen</i> NRA | 7.6.5 <i>non nego</i>] <i>non ego</i> T ¹ RA ¹ |
| 7.1.18 <i>Helena</i>] <i>elena</i> TRA, <i>de lena</i> N | 7.6.13 <i>imitatur</i>] <i>inimitatur</i> R |
| 7.2.12 <i>siquem</i>] <i>si quidem</i> NRA ¹ | 7.7.4 <i>est</i>] bis scr. RA, om. T |
| 7.2.13 <i>adde</i>] <i>addere</i> R | 7.7.6 <i>pueri</i>] <i>puri</i> R |
| 7.3.7 <i>videbatur</i>] <i>videtur</i> R | 7.7.10 <i>erat</i>] om. RA |
| 7.3.10 <i>flamines</i>] <i>flammines</i> R | 7.7.13 <i>nimum</i>] <i>nimio</i> RA, om. P |
| 7.3.16 <i>cum</i>] om. R | 7.8.1 <i>digestu</i>] <i>digestum</i> RA |
| 7.3.22 <i>prolapsus</i>] <i>prolassus</i> R | 7.8.14 <i>ratione</i>] <i>rationem</i> RA |
| 7.4.11 <i>hinc</i>] <i>hoc</i> R | 7.8.14 <i>fervorem</i>] <i>fervore</i> RA |
| 7.4.28 <i>urgente</i>] <i>urgente</i> PR | 7.9.7 <i>ministeria</i>] <i>misteria</i> RA |
| 7.5.14 <i>stomachum</i>] <i>stomacho</i> R | 7.9.9 <i>excusare</i>] <i>excursare</i> RF |
| 7.5.22 <i>modo</i>] <i>modo eum</i> R | 7.9.21 <i>gustatibus</i>] <i>gustantibus</i> RA |
| 7.5.22 <i>avidus</i>] <i>avidis</i> R, <i>avidius</i> F ¹ , om. T | 7.9.26 <i>opertu</i>] <i>opertum</i> R, <i>operta</i> T |
| 7.5.28 <i>nec</i>] <i>ne</i> R | 7.11.9 <i>virtute</i>] <i>virtutis</i> R |
| 7.5.28 <i>potando</i>] <i>potandum</i> RA | 7.12.25 <i>a te</i>] <i>ante</i> RA |
| 7.5.29 <i>adpetentiam</i> (<i>appententiam</i> J)] <i>ad</i>
<i>penitentiam</i> RA ¹ | 7.12.31 <i>Herodotus</i>] <i>herodatus</i> RA |
| | 7.12.35 <i>dextra</i>] <i>extra</i> R |

7.12.38 *dulcis per*] *dulcis cum per* R
 7.13.8 *implicatum*] *implicatu* R
 7.13.11 *vobis erit*] *erit vobis* R
 7.13.12 *deceret*] *decerneret* RA¹

7.13.17 *reversus*] *severus* RA
 7.13.18 *mari*] *mare* R
 7.13.24 *alimoniam*] *alimoniae* RA
 7.14.6 *oculos*] *oculo* R.

R breaks off at *in animum inducere* 7.14.11. Thereafter, J continues to show about the same number of readings corresponding to F and A, the remaining members of the RFA group. Following the break-off point of R, we find the following variants in J, many of which, no doubt, represent the same tradition reflected in the portions of R which are intact:

7.14.16 *in*] *om.* J
 7.14.19 *adeo*] *ideo* J
 7.14.20 *rationis neglegentia*] *racioni sine-
glegentia* J
 7.14.21 *sensus*] *sensus unus* J
 7.14.22 *nam*] *unam* J
 7.14.22 *visatur*] *visitatur* J
 7.14.22 *fungi*] *fungi* J
 7.14.22 *qui potest de pondere iudicare.
sed metus est*] *om.* J
 7.15.2 *per*] *om.* FAJ
 7.15.2 *libros*] *liberos* J
 7.15.3 *eum*] *om.* TJ
 7.15.3 *deprehendit*] *reprehendit* J
 7.15.4 *faucibus*] *facibus* J
 7.15.4 *qui*] *quod* J
 7.15.5 *renes*] *rienes* PT¹A¹J
 7.15.6 *quem*] *quam* J
 7.15.6 *procideret*] *procederet* AJ
 7.15.6 *naturae*] *natura* J
 7.15.6 ἐπιλωττίδα] ΕΠΙΛΟΠΙΔΑ
FAJ
 7.15.7 *potuve*] *om.* J
 7.15.8 *ventre*] *ventrem* AJ
 7.15.10 *polenta*] *pulenta* FJ, *poculenta*
TA
 7.15.10 *admixtis*] *admixtus* AJ
 7.15.12 *tarda digestio*] *tardi gestio* J
 7.15.14 Graec. om. TFAJ
 7.15.14 *augustior*] *angustior* P¹J
 7.15.14 *est*] *om.* J
 7.15.15 *de carne lutulenta*] *du carne
luculenta* J¹
 7.15.16 ἐπιλωττίς] ΕΠΙΛΟΠΙΣ FAJ
 7.15.16 *quam*] *quas* J
 7.15.18 *in propatulo*] *impropatulo* J
 7.15.18 *quod*] *sed* AJ
 7.15.22 *Colaces*] *coleaces* FAJ
 7.15.22 Graec. om. TFAJ

7.15.23 *et Eratosthenes testatur idem*] *om.*
FAJ
 7.15.23 Graec. om. TFAJ
 7.16.1 *ovumne*] *ovum* J
 7.16.3 *si*] *sed* J
 7.16.3 *animalis effecit. ex hoc perfectae
avis species*] *om.* FAJ
 7.16.3 *effectu*] *effectum* J
 7.16.4 *ex illo*] *ex illa* FAJ
 7.16.6 *ex*] *om.* J
 7.16.7 *quia*] *qui* J
 7.16.7 *crocodilus*] *corcodrillus* PFA²J,
cocodrillus A¹, *cocodrilus* T
 7.16.8 *Liberi*] *libri* J
 7.16.8 *tereti*] *terrea* J
 7.16.10 *mulierem*] *materem* J
 7.16.10 *factum*] *factam* PTJ
 7.16.10 *sint*] *sunt* J
 7.16.11 *aliquo*] *aliquod* AJ
 7.16.11 *procreatione*] *procurazione* J
 7.16.12 *testimonio*] *testimonia* AJ
 7.16.14 *solo*] *sola* FJ
 7.16.16 *effecerit*] *efficerit* J, *effecit* P
 7.16.19 *vestri*] *nostri* J
 7.16.21 *quae*] *qua* J
 7.16.21 *infusus*] *infusum* J
 7.16.22 *est qualitatis*] *qualitatis est* J
 7.16.22 *manifestis*] *manifestatis* J
 7.16.23 *de*] *om.* FAJ
 7.16.23 *quam*] *quo* J
 7.16.24 *formandoque*] *firmandoque* J,
firmando T
 7.16.24 *myricae*] *mirice* J
 7.16.24 *ergo mirum*] *ergo non mirum* FAJ
 7.16.25 *fellantes*] *fallentes* TFJ, *pallentes*
PA
 7.16.25 *obtegunt*] *tecunt* J
 7.16.27 *ad celerandos*] *accelerando* FAJ
 7.16.27 *partus*] *partu* FJ, *partui* A

7.16.28 Graec. om. TFAJ	7.16.33 <i>deinde</i>] <i>de</i> J
7.16.29 <i>inanimata</i>] <i>inanima</i> FJ	7.16.33 <i>ex</i>] om. J
7.16.29 <i>curae</i>] <i>cura</i> J	7.16.33 <i>incidens</i>] <i>incedens</i> J
7.16.31 <i>et</i>] om. J	7.16.34 Graec. om. J
7.16.33 <i>stypticam</i>] <i>stypicam</i> J, <i>stipticam</i> TA	7.16.34 <i>testis</i>] <i>auctor</i> PJ
	7.16.34 <i>ex</i>] om. J

Following *umori*, the last word in the body of the text, J agrees with A as follows:

MACROBII THEODOSII V.C. & ILLVSTRIS CONVIVIORVM TERTII DIEI.

The readings cited above which illustrate points of agreement and disagreement between J and R would lead us to conclude that, while the two are related, the one was not copied from the other. This study would seem to indicate rather that J and R are *gemelli* of an archetype now lost. Inasmuch as R is incomplete, J has particular significance for the final portions of the text, and can have a proportionate value for future editors of the *Saturnalia*.