

Let's Get Down to Business: the Meretrix as Businesswoman in Plautus

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Abstract:

<https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2021/abstracts/2515plautusoccupationalmetaphors.pdf>

1. *Truculentus* 654-657

STRAB: ...ego propere minas/ouis in crumina hac in urbem detuli./ fuit edepol Mars meo periratus patri,/ nam oues illius hau longe apsunt a lupis

Strabax: "I swiftly brought the 'bare-bellied' sheep into town in my purse. By Pollux, Mars was very angry at my father: for his sheep are not far absent from the wolves"

2. *Truculentus* 74-76

DIN: postremo id magno in populo multis hominibus,/ re placida atque otiosa, **uictis hostibus**:/ amare oportet omnis qui quod dent habent

Diniarchus: "Finally, this happens in a great population with many people, when public being is calm and peaceful and the enemies are conquered: everyone should love, who has something to give"

3. *Truculentus* 138-143

DIN: ego expedibo.
rem perdedi apud uos, uos meum negotium apstulistis.
si rem seruassem, fuit ubi negotiosus essem.

AST: an tu te **Veneris publicum** aut Amoris alia lege **habere** posse postulas quin otiosus fias?

Diniarchus: I'll explain. I lost my property at your house, you took my business away from me. If I'd rescued my property, I'd have somewhere to do business.

Astaphium: Or perhaps do you desire to be able to have the public land of Venus or Amor by another law by which you become a man of leisure.

4. *Truculentus* 144-152

DIN: illa, haud ego, habit publicum: pervorse interpretaris;

nam advorsum legem meam ob meam scripturam pecudem cepit.

AST: plerique idem quod tu facis faciunt rei male gerentes:
ubi non est scripturam unde dent, incusant publicanos.

DIN: male vortit res pecuaria mihi apud uos: nunc vicissim
volo habere aratiunculam pro copia hic apud vos.

AST: non arvos hic, sed pascuost ager: si arationes
habituris, qui arari solent, ad pueros ire meliust.
hunc nos habemus publicum, illi alii sunt publicani.

Diniarchus: That woman, not I, had the public land: you are twisting my words: for contrary to the law she took my cattle on account of pasturage tax.

Astaphium: Most people do this same thing which you do, being unsuccessful: when they are unable to pay the tax (lit. when there is nowhere from where they give the tax), they accuse the tax collectors.

Diniarchus: Your cattle-grazing land turned out badly for me: now in turn I want to have a little ploughland here at your place according to your ability.

Astaphium: This field here is not for plowing but is for grazing. If you'll have ploughland, it is better to go to the boys, who are accustomed to being plowed. We have this public land, those guys are other tax collectors.

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