

Minds Without Maps: Terence's *Adelphoe* and Wayfinding in Mid-Republican Rome

This paper will explore the subjective geography of Roman urban wayfinding during the Middle Republic, through a close analysis of a scene from Terence's *Adelphoe* (572-584). The functional discussions of Roman surveying and navigation that are common in the scholarly literature look at how the Romans may have moved through space but less attention is paid to how the Romans *perceived of themselves* moving through space. Discussions of Roman wayfinding and spatial cognition are still hampered by a "must-have-been" logic which assumes that a cartographic understanding of space is, if not the default, at least the most logical way of approaching spatial relationships (Brodersen 2001).

I will instead investigate the evidence for Roman use of mental 'strip-maps' in navigation and how these impacted upon their larger mental landscape. The analysis will build on the work of Alan Kaiser (2011) which highlighted the importance of behaviour and social performance in the definition of the Roman streetscape. This suggests that space was perceived of as more than just a physical manifestation but was continually constructed and negotiated through the interaction between the individual and the environment. Terence's *Adelphoe* (572-584) is the longest extant direction-giving scene from our surviving Roman comedies and provides an excellent opportunity to explore the implications of these conclusions and the manner in which practical spatial information was conveyed. English translations of this scene (Gratwick 1999; Barsby 2001) will highlight how modern perceptions of spatial relationships can bias our understanding of Roman wayfinding, thus distorting the nature of the original Latin text. This analysis will therefore deconstruct the cartographic assumptions of modern scholars and highlight the hodological and subjective nature of Roman mental maps during the Middle Republic (Bekker-Nielsen 1988).

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