

## The Exeter Manuscript of the OCTAVIA: a correction

On page 365 of the article in *Rhein. Mus.* CI (1958) it was stated that G (the Exeter MS) omitted lines 687—9 (*ipsamque . . . aulam*).

The writer was mistaken; these three lines do occur in G, but have been misplaced, namely between 685<sup>a</sup> (*iuncta Neroni*) and 669 (*CHORUS: en illuxit . . .*). Thus G is guilty of another, minor, transposition on top of the major transposition which it shares with the Paris manuscript P, and which is described on p. 357 of the article cited.

It is to be noted that in 689 (*telisque feri principis aulam*) G is now seen to share with P the reading *feri*, whereas all other reported MSS, and the modern critical editions, read *feris*. There is much to be said in favour of *feri*, which (incidentally) was already printed in Gronovius' edition. It breaks up the intolerable series of four *-is*-endings in four successive words, presented by the usual reading; it removes from *telis* an epithet which is quite otiose in this context (*telis* can take a share in *infestis* 688, Grotius' universally accepted emendation for MSS *infelix*); and restores to *principis* an epithet which is also used in connection with Nero at lines 88, 609 and 959.

Since the discovery that G does contain lines 687—9, all the readings attributed to CPG in the article cited have been checked afresh against the manuscripts (CP in microfilms, G in the original). The following minor slips should now be corrected: —

p. 362, on line 63: "*recte*" should be placed after C, not after PG.

p. 364, on line 432: for "scelere C" read "scelera C".

p. 365, on line 766: "*recte*" should be placed after PG, not after C.

p. 371, on *Agam.* 243: read "paene est innocens] so CP" and delete "pene et innocens P".