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EDITED BY

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Yale University

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University of California

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THE SOUNDS OF LATIN

A DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL PHONOLOGY

Third Edition, Revised

BY

ROLAND G. KENT
Professor of Indo-European Linguistics in the University of Pennsylvania

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PREFACE

Twenty-five years of lecturing on Latin Phonology have impressed me with the need of a conveniently arranged handbook of the subject, composed in English, and equipped with exercises.

The present volume is an attempt to fill this need. The arrangement is severely schematic, which has occasionally necessitated too definite a chronological assignment of sound changes, but from this there was no escape if the volume was to have pedagogical value.

Apart from this limitation, I have attempted to make the treatment severely scientific and up-to-date. Words of dubious etymology have been avoided, or the necessary qualification has been offered in a note. At the same time, the special views that I personally hold have been embodied, with references in their support.

The arrangement of the sections is: main text, containing all matter of primary importance, but excluding citations except cross references; next, in smaller type, notes giving exact references, including the passage in which any peculiar word or form may be found, and also subordinate remarks or limitations not essential to the understanding of the main text; finally, in some instances, a brief selected bibliography.

The Exercises are planned to enable the instructor to dispense with lecturing and to limit himself to the discussion of problems and the explanation of matters not clear to the students. I have suggested also a division of the exercises into an elementary course and an advanced course: the elementary course is designed to give the students an insight into the relation of Latin words among themselves without much reference to other languages, or, in other words, Latin word formation; the advanced course is designed to introduce the students to the study of Latin etymology, with free use of cognates from other languages. Students who have been guided through these exercises should be able to make independent use of the more detailed works, notably those listed in §10.

Users of this volume will do the author a favor by informing him of such misprints and other errors as they may notice.

A second part covering word formation and inflexions will follow as soon as possible.

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My grateful appreciation is hereby expressed to the American Council of Learned Societies for a grant of $300 for clerical and other assistance in the preparation of the typescript; to the University of Pennsylvania Committee on Research for a typewriting machine with a special linguistic keyboard; and especially to the Linguistic Society of America, which has furnished the opportunity of publishing a volume which otherwise might never have seen print.

R. G. K.

November 4, 1931.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The first edition of The Sounds of Latin was exhausted at the end of 1939. The second edition contains many small changes, incorporated into the text without changing the pagination, and a considerable number of Addenda, pages 217–220. The only radical changes are, however, those in §9, §12, §127.I, §168.II.

I express my sincere thanks to the many scholars who by their reviews and their personal letters have aided me in the revision of the volume, and to my own students, whose difficulties often revealed to me the weak points of the exposition. It would be idle to fancy that all obscurities and errors of detail have been eliminated, but they have certainly been much reduced in number.

I am deeply grateful likewise to the Editor and the Committee on Publications of the Linguistic Society of America, who authorized the preparation and publication of this revised edition.

The promised second volume on word-formation and inflections will, I hope, be ready for printing in the not too distant future.

R. G. K.

April 15, 1940.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The exhaustion of the second edition gives opportunity to make some further changes, including references to the second edition of Sturtevant's Pronunciation of Greek and Latin. The volume is therefore available for use with its companion volume, The Forms of Latin, appearing at about the same time.

R. G. K.

January 15, 1945.

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