

Stage 5: Plautus - Roman Comedic Playwright

Titus Maccius Plautus (c. 254-184 BCE) c. = **circa = around**

- remember that Romans have 3 names so we call him by his last name → Plautus [Plow-tus]

I. Time period:

- the "c." is used before his birth and death dates because it is an estimate based on works he published and other historical events / information
- Plautus was writing during the Old Latin period (before 75 BCE)
 - the Latin in this time period is slightly different than the "classical Latin" we are learning

II. Influence:

- Plautus was influenced by Greek comedy, but he made changes to better fit his Roman audience.
- He has a lasting influence as the ancient dramatist with the most surviving work
 - 20 **surviving** plays of 130 written **works can often be lost:**
 - destroyed
 - stolen + hidden
 - deterioration over time
 - of his 20 surviving works not all are complete; some are short fragments
 - we know he wrote more because his works are often referenced in other contexts

c. "Plautine" is an adjective used to describe Plautus' works and plays that are written in a similar style

d. He had a lasting effect on the use of characters in literature: some of his character models are still used today