"The Song of Seikilos" (1st century CE)

hoson zdays figh-nou,
mayden holos su lupou,
pros oligon esti to zdayn,
to telos ho chronos apightay.

As long as you live, be lighthearted.
Do not grieve at all.
Life is for a short time.
Time demands an end.
“Gaudéamus igitur” (student song)

Gaudéamus igitur,
Juvenes düm sumus.
Gaudéamus igitur,
Juvenes düm sumus.
Post iucundam iuventutem,
Post molestam senectutem,
Nos habebit humus.
Nos habebit humus.

Therefore let us be happy while we are young.
After pleasant youth,
After troublesome old age,
The earth will hold us.
Aristophanes, *Frogs* 209-215 (405 BCE)

brekekekeks koaks koaks

brekekekeks koaks koaks

λιμναία χηνών τέκνα,
limnaea craynon tekna

ξῦναυλον ύμνων βοᾶν
ksunaulon hymnon boan

φθεγξώμεθ', εὐγηρον ἐμάν
fthenkemoseth eugayrun eman

aoidán,
aoidan

koaks koaks

Brekekekeks koaks koaks, brekekekeks koaks koaks
Let us, the swampy children of the waters, sound forth the cry of hymns,
my sweet song, along with the pipes, koaks, koaks.
Plautus, *Cistellaria* 211-220 (ca. 200 BCE)

ubi s(um)ibi non s(um);ubi non s(um i)bi(c)st animus: ita m(i) omnia sunt ingenia.
quod lubet, non lubet i(am) id continuo,
ita m(c) Amor lass(um) animi ludificat,
fugat, agit, appetit, raptat, retinet,
lactat, largitur: quod dat non
dat, deludit:
modo quod suasit, <id> dissuadet;
quod dissuasit, id ostentat.

Where I am, I’m not. Where I’m not, that’s where my heart is. That’s how my whole nature is. I like something: straightaway I don’t like it any more. That’s how love mocks me, leaving me exhausted in my heart. It puts me to flight, it drives me on, it attacks me, it snatches me up, it holds me back, it dupes me, it lavishes stuff on me: what it gives it doesn’t give, it tricks me. What it has just now persuaded me of, it persuades me against. What it has persuaded me against, it offers me.

Text and scansion from Cesare Questa (ed.), *Titi Maccii Plauti Cantica* (Urbino, 1995).
"Si Haberem Malleum"
Petri Paulique Mariaeque

Si haberem malleum,
Mallerem mane,
Mallerem vespere,
Per totam hanc terram.
Mallerem iustitiam!
Mallerem libertatem!
Mallerem amorem inter fratres sororesque
Per totam hanc terram.

Si haberem tintinnabulum,
Eo tinnirem mane,
Tinnirem vespere,
Per totam hanc terram.
Tinnirem iustitiam!
Tinnirem libertatem!
Tinnirem amorem inter fratres sororesque
Per totam hanc terram.

Si haberem carmen,
Id canerem mane,
Id canerem vespere,
Per totam hanc terram.
Canerem iustitiam!
Canerem libertatem!
Canerem amorem inter fratres sororesque
Per totam hanc terram.

I habeo quidem malleum,
Et habeo tintinnabulum,
Et habeo carmen quod canam
Per totam hanc terram.
Est malleus iustitiae!
Est tintinnabulum libertatis!
Est carmen amoris inter fratres sororesque
Per totum hanc terram.
Some Bibliography


