

AN INTRUSIVE GLOSS IN OVID *EX PONTO* 4.13

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IN LINES 45–46 of *Ex Ponto* 4.13, Ovid expresses the hope that Germanicus will obtain a triumph for the poets of Rome to celebrate in verse:

*sic capto Latiis Germanicus hoste catenis
materiam uestris adferat ingeniis*

The only sense which can be extracted from *capto* . . . *catenis* is “captured with chains,” which seems too bizarre to accept. The true reading is *uincto* . . . *catenis*; for the picture, compare *Ars Am.* 1.215 *ibunt ante duces onerati colla catenis*, for *uincto* compare Livy 7.27.8 *eos uinctos consul ante currum triumphans egit*, and for *uincto* . . . *catenis* compare Caesar *BGall.* 1.53 *trinis catenis uinctus*.

The transmitted reading is the result of two separate corruptions. First *uincto* was misread as *uicto*. The new reading was difficult to construe; a scribe accordingly provided the gloss *capto*. At a later stage *uicto* was displaced by its gloss.

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