

EX PONTO 4.13: A REPLY

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

(Pont. 4.13.45–46)

ON THESE LINES DR AKRIGG (*Phoenix* 40 [1986] 322) is quite unequivocal: "The only sense which can be extracted from *capto* . . . *catenis* is 'captured with chains'." He then asserts that the true reading is *vincto* which in transmission became *victo* which was then glossed with *capto*, this gloss entering the text. *catenis*, I submit, is dative and *capto* can stay: Germanicus will take an enemy for Latin chains.¹ *catenae* are part and parcel of the triumph at home (*Latiis*) when the captive, paraded in chains, will provide a subject for verse, a subject in which Roman poets delighted.

Two passages in Silius are interesting: *ite alacres: Latia devinctum colla catena / Hannibalem ducam spectante per urbem* (8.276 f.) where Hannibal will be led in triumph in Latin chains, and *neve sinas captum Ausonias perferre catenas* (17.367) where Juno is pleading for Hannibal. In the latter passage the chains are clearly separated from the actual capture. Moreover, in the light of the former passage it appears that Juno is thinking of Hannibal enduring the ignominy of being paraded at Rome (*Ausonias*) in a triumph. Similarly in Ovid there are two thoughts: an enemy will be captured and then will be part of a triumph.²

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¹The "dative of purpose" is not uncommon in military language: cf. (within ablative absolute) *ibi tribuni militum non loco castris ante capto*, Livy 5.38.1. Staying with *capio*, I note a comparable usage at *Aeneid* 5.712 *hunc cape consiliis socium*.

²I thank my colleague Archie Allen for bringing the original note to my attention, and for sharing his views on my response.