

The Medieval Drama

The Disappearance of the Classical Drama

The Medieval Drama did not derive from the classical drama. The Drama is universal. The Drama of Rome was not very significant, There was no dramatist of the first rank. Plautus (254-184 B.C.) most celebrated, comedian, based on Greek originals. Terence (195-159 B.C.) slave of Roman senator. Andria, first play. Wrote 5 other plays. All based on Greek originals. Seneca (3-65 A.D.), wrote closet tragedies.

Roscio was a friend of Cicero and the last great actor of Rome. Undoubtedly the political conditions were not favorable to drama, but only to spectacle: circus + chariot races, etc. There were 65 festival days in the year. ^{(?) festival}
 [Roman Entertainment:

Ludwig Friedländer, Roman Life and Manners, Vol 2, Chapter 2]
 By the fourth century there were 175 festival days.

Circus: chariot races.

Amphitheatre: Gladiatorial contests, bear basting, sham naval battle.

Stadium: least popular: athletic contests.

Theatre: Farce - atellana stereotyped, masked
mimes - burlesque with plot.

[Reich, Der Mimus (Berlin, 1903, 2 vols.)]

There were women in mimus - mimae means actress, then, and courtesan.

The mimi were subject to infamia, no redress to courts.

[Greige, Infamia (Oxford, 1894)]