

Owain Park: <i>Officium Lusorum - 'Mass of the Gamblers'</i>		Text, translation and stage directions
1. Introduction		
Ite missa est: Deo gracias.	<i>Go, the mass is ended: Thanks be to God.</i>	<i>...outside the church, the bells ring... ...the mass is ending...</i>
2. Introit		
Lugeamus omnes in Decio, diem mestum deplorantes pro dolore omnium lusorum: de quorum nuditate gaudent Decii et collaudant filium Bacchi.	<i>We all mourn for Decius, feeling sorry on this day of mourning and sorrow for all those who dedicate themselves to the game: the dice enjoy their nakedness and honour the son of Bacchus.</i>	<i>...the gamblers assemble... [...as if flicking through a pack of cards...]</i>
3. Verse		
Fraus vobis! Tibi leccatori!	<i>The swindle be with you! And also with you, good for nothing.</i>	<i>...they greet each other...</i>
Maledicant Decio in omni tempore; semper fraus eius in meo ore.	<i>Cursed be Decius eternally. His falsehood will always be on my lips.</i>	<i>...they curse their dice...</i>
4. Prayer		
Ornemus! Deus, qui nos concedis trium Deciorum maleficia colere: da nobis in eterna tristitia de eorum societate lugere.	<i>We place our bets!* God our Lord, who hast given us the power to see the evil of the three dice, May you ensure eternal punishment so as to deplore their combination. *[We are undone!]</i>	<i>...the bets are placed...</i>
5. Epistle		
In diebus illis multitudinis ludentium erat cor unum et tunica nulla, et hiems erat, et iactabant vestimenta secus pedes accomodantis, qui vocabatur Landrus. Landrus autem erat plenus pecunia et fenore et faciebat damna magna in	<i>But in those days the multitude of players did not form a single heart without clothes. And it was winter, and they threw their garments at the feet of the usurer called Landrus*. He was burdened by wealth and the fruits of usury and attacked every</i>	<i>...their fortunes twist and turn...</i>

<p>medio eorum et dixit: “Fraus vobis! Nolite cessare ludere. Pro dolore enim vestro missus sum ad vos”.</p> <p>Primas autem, qui dicitur Vilissimus, non erat cum eis, quando venit Decius. Dixerunt autem alii discipuli: “Vidimus Decium”.</p> <p>Qui dixit eis: “Nisi mittam os meum in locum pecarii, ut bibam, non credam”.</p> <p>Primas autem, qui dicitur Vilissimus, iactabat dicem, alius duodecim, tertius vero quinque. Et quinque proiecerat, exhaustit bursam et nudus ab aliis se abscondit.</p>	<p><i>arrived, sat in their midst and said: “The swindle be with you. Do not stop playing. Because I have been sent among you for your suffering.”</i></p> <p><i>But Primas, who was also called the most abject, was not among them when Decius spoke. The other disciples told him: “We have seen Decius.”</i></p> <p><i>But he replied: “Until I have brought to my lips the cup from which I drink, I will not believe him”.*</i></p> <p><i>But Primas, also known as the most abject, threw ten, another twelve and again a third, five. And the one who had thrown a five emptied his purse and walked away from them naked. *ie “Only if I am drunk will I believe it”.</i></p>	<p><i>...having lost everything...</i></p>
<h3>10. Offertory</h3>		
<p>Loculum humilem salvum facies, Decie, et oculos lusorum erue. Humiliate vos, avari, ad maledictionem!</p>	<p><i>Decius, heal the wretched purse of the poor and tear out the eyes of the players. Bend over, o covetous ones, in order to receive the curse.</i></p>	<p><i>...they pray for their purses...</i></p>
<h3>11. Prayer</h3>		
<p>Ornemus! Effunde, domine, iram tuam super avaros et tenaces, qui iuxta culum ferunt sacculum, et cum habuerint denarium, reponunt eum inclusum, donec vertatur in augmentum et germinet centum.</p>	<p><i>We place our bets! O Lord, pour out your wrath upon the greedy and on hoarders who bring their small purse hanging on their backsides, and when they have a dime, throw it so that it can multiply and produce a hundred.</i></p>	<p><i>...cursed are those who worship the cursed dice...</i></p>
<h3>12. Communion</h3>		
<p>Mirabantur omnes inter se, quod Decius abstraxerat cuilibet vestes. Amen.</p>	<p><i>And among them, all were surprised that Decius had taken from each his own clothing.</i></p>	

13. Invocation

Omnipotens sempiterne deus, qui inter rusticos et clericos magnam discordiam seminasti, presta, quesumus, de laboribus eorum vivere, et de morte dictorum semper gaudere.

Almighty and eternal God, who hast cast discord between the clergy and the peasants, grant, we beseech thee, the power to live on their shoulders, and to enjoy in eternity their death.

[...pack of cards...]

14. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

*...a call to return to their lives in prayer...
...the mass begins once more...*