RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PLOT OF THE SATYRICON
(from Schmeling)

**Missing Books.** From the manuscripts of the Satyricon, we can infer that the extant portion begins late in Book 14. Not only is much lost, but also much of what remains is fragmentary. Therefore, some of the reconstruction and interpretation is open to discussion. It appears that the action of the full-length Satyricon began at Massilia, modern Marseilles, in southern France, where some kind of plague had settled on the city. Encolpius, though convicted of impersonating the ithyphallic god Priapus, was allowed to go free on condition that he first serve as a ritual scape-goat to rid the city of its ills. He was maintained at public expense for one year; then the city priests in a magic rite transferred the plague or whatever trouble it had to Encolpius, forbidding him to return to Massilia. Somewhere, perhaps during the trip from Massilia to Naples, Encolpius met Giton and Ascytus.

**Lost Episodes.** There are five lost episodes referred to in the extant Satyricon, which must have occurred in the early, missing portions. (1) Encolpius and Ascytus robbed the villa of Lycurgus and killed its owner. The money stolen at this time was lost but recovered in chapters 12-15. (2) Encolpius was apparently condemned for some crime to fight in the arena; see chapter 9. (3) By his own confession in a letter to Circe in chapter 130, Encolpius admits to murder and robbing a temple. (4) In another lost episode around Naples, Encolpius seduced Hydele, the wife of Lichas, and made Tryphaena the main subject in a public scandal. But Lichas and Tryphaena get their revenge in chapters 99-115. (5) In some way or other at the secret rites of Priapus, which were overseen by Quartilla, Encolpius committed some foul act, but escaped. Quartilla wins her revenge for this desecration in chapters 16-26.

**EPISODIC OUTLINE OF THE SATYRICA**
Encolpius and Agamemnon at the school of rhetoric

Encolpius and Ascytlos fight over Giton

arguments over stolen clothing at a market

Quartilla and a bisexual orgy

The Cena Trimalchionis

arrival and preliminaries

food, drink, and entertainment

Encolpius learns about those present

Trimalchio goes out and the guests, other freedmen, take the opportunity to talk

Niceros tells a story about a werewolf

Trimalchio's will, tomb, and mock funeral

Encolpius and Ascytlos fight over Giton; Encolpius loses

Encolpius meets Eumolpus in an art gallery

Eumolpus tells the story "The Boy of Pergamum"

Eumolpus recites a poem on the Sack of Troy

(Troiae Halosis)

Encolpius regains Giton, but then fights with Eumolpus over him (during which Ascytlos appears and leaves)

Encolpius learns about those present

Trimalchio goes out and the guests, other freedmen, take the opportunity to talk

Niceros tells a story about a werewolf

Trimalchio's will, tomb, and mock funeral

voage on Lichas' ship: disguise, discovery, mock trial, brawl, reconciliation

Eumolpus tells the story "The Widow of Ephesus"

storm and shipwreck; Lichas' body washed ashore and cremated

adventures in Croton: Eumolpus, Encolpius, and Giton try to con legacy hunters

Eumolpus recites a poem on the Civil War

(Bellum Civile)

Encolpius (as 'Polyaenus') suffers from impotence
in his affair with 'Circe'

133-8 Encolpius gets into trouble with the witches
    Proselenus and Oenothea

138-41 the text becomes increasingly fragmentary
    and breaks off