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AN ATTIC EPITAPH

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The epitaph in the Robinson collection published by R.A. Moysey and E.F. Dolan, *ZPE* 69 (1987) 90 must be Attic (not Italian, as they suggest):

[— ∞ — ∞ c]ῆμ' Ἀτθικ λάχεν· Ἀυκονίη δὲ
2 [cōμα' ἔχεν· ψυ]χῆ δ' αἰθέρα εἰκονέβη.

Ἀτθίς, like Ἀυκονίη, is not a woman's name here but the name of a land; cf., for example, *IG II²* 10108, ἐμὲ δὲ Ἀτθικ ἰ κρύψε. Attica and Italy are contrasted, and the one antithesis suggests another, cῆμα/cōμα. Attica got the tomb, Italy the body. It is a good chiasmus. The destination of the ψυχή provides yet another antithesis, for which a parallel can be found in W. Peek, *Griechische Vers-Inschriften*, no. 1742:¹

[cῆμα τόδ'] ἐστ' Ἀγορά[v]ακτο[c], παιδὸς Φιλ[---]
[cōμα δ]ὲ Φοινίκη κατέχει, ψυχὴν δ' ἔ[λεν αἰθήρ.]
[κεῖθι] κασίγνητοι θάψαμ πατρίοις ν[όμοισιν.]

Peek, *GVI*, nos. 1739-1753 provide examples of the type.

The inscription of course is part of the cῆμα, and there can be no doubt that it is Attic. The parents erected the monument for their child, who had gone off to Italy and died there.

3 [μήτερ — ∞]τεία, πατήρ δὲ μοὶ Ἡρακλείδη[c]
[— ∞ — ∪] ἔτη ζῆσα μετ' ἀμφοτέρω[v.]

The names of the parents should be added to Attic prosopography: Ἡρακλείδης and [---]τεία (most likely -κρ)άτεία, but there are other possibilities). The name of the deceased apparently occurred in line 1 or perhaps in line 4.

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¹ P.M. Fraser-G.E. Bean, *The Rhodian Peraea* (Oxford 1954) 33-34, no. 19.