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NOTES ON LITERARY PAPYRI

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I

Lollianus, *Phoenicica*, fr. B 1 recto 14. In my hypothetical restoration of the passage in question (*ZPE* 46 [1982] 136), I suggested:

ὥς μετρίως ἐκ[κ]εύατο, [ἔδωκεν τὸ ἥμισυ τοῖ]ς μνουμένοις, κτλ.

This restoration appeared better suited to the size of the lacuna than did either Henrichs' reconstruction¹ ([μετέδωκεν ἀντῆς τοῖ]ς) or Koenen's ([μετέδωκεν ταύτης τοῖ]ς; *BASP* 16 [1979] 110). Now that J.N. Sullivan has established an objective means of checking the size of the lacuna in fr. B 1 and has concluded that the size of the supplements that C.P. Jones (*Phoenix* 34 [1980] 246-250) and I proposed are "very near the truth on the width of the gap" (*ZPE* 50 [1983] 7-11; quote from 9), I should like to suggest another possibility for the restoration of line 14:

ὥς μετρίως ἐκ[κ]εύατο, [διέδωκεν ἀντοῖς ὧ]ς μνουμένοις, κτλ.

Also possible is [μετέδωκεν, but it seems slightly too long for the space involved (see Tafel V in *ZPE* 46). Reading ὧ]ς instead of τοῖ]ς leaves open the vexed question of whether the scene described in the text is in fact the record of a mystery ritual: we may translate either as "he distributed it to them as they were being initiated" or "as if they were being initiated." ὧ]ς therefore seems preferable to the tendentious τοῖ]ς.

II

Alcestis Barcinonensis 99. In his new edition of the poem,² M. Marcovich reads, restores and translates lines 98-99 as follows:

Quos, rogo, ne parvos man<u>s indigna<nda> novercae³
prodat, et <h>eu flentes matris pia vindicet umbra."

"They are still small: I beg you, may no unworthy hand of a stepmother betray them! Alas! Know that the faithful shade of the mother will come to avenge her crying children!"

¹ A. Henrichs, *Die Phoinikika des Lollianos*, PTA 14 (Bonn 1972) 93.

² M. Marcovich, *Alcestis Barcinonensis: Text and Commentary*, Mnemosyne, Suppl. 103 (Leiden 1988) 34-35; also see *ZPE* 65, 1986, 39-57, esp. 44.

³ *man<u>s* is the reading of the editio princeps (see below, n. 4), and *indigna<nda>* is R. Kassel's emendation: see Marcovich *ad loc.*

Marcovich reads *prodat, et <h>eu*, where the papyrus has the corrupt *proderentet*. Other emendations have been proposed: see Marcovich ad loc.: "proderet et *Ed.*,⁴ *agn. Lebek* : *prodiderit Tandoi* : *verberet et Nisbet* : *proterat et Watt*." Inspired by Marcovich's *prodat, et <h>eu*, I venture the following emendation:

prodat, neu flentes matris pia vindicet umbra.

"... I beg you, may no unworthy hand of a stepmother betray them, and may the faithful shade of the mother not come to avenge her crying children" (i.e., as it surely will, if a stepmother attempts betrayal).

Paleographically the new reading is not particularly close to what the papyrus has, but the same text elsewhere offers passages that require surgery that is just as drastic: see the long list of corruptions listed by Marcovich under the heading "Improvisation" in his Index of Scribal Errors (p. 111), from which I select some specimens: 1, *doli piant* : *Deli<e> P<a>e-an*; 52, *aeternam sede* : *terrena <in> sede*; 70, *illius* : *<ca>eli v<i>s*; 118, *tractabat quae manos* : *tractavitque manu*. In the present case the course of corruption could have been as follows: *prodat neu* →* *prodat eu* (or some other corruption of *neu*) → **prodat et* (an attempt to restore the conjunction, but unmetrical) → *proderet et* (an attempt to improve the meter, but with abnormal syntax)⁵ → *proderentet* (the reading of the papyrus).

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⁴ See R. Roca-Puig, *Alcestis, Hexàmetres Llatins, Papyri Barcinonenses* Inv. no. 158-161 (Barcelona 1982); W.D. Lebek, *ZPE* 52 (1983) 1-29; V. Tandoi, *Anonymi Carmen de Alcestide nuper repertum* (Foggia 1984); P.J. Parsons, R.G.M. Nisbet, G.O. Hutchinson, *ZPE* 52 (1983) 31-36; W.S. Watt, *ZPE* 54 (1984) 37f.

⁵ See Marcovich (above, n. 2) ad loc. (p. 81), where he notes that for the unusual sequence of tenses Lebek—who reads *proderet et*—refers to Hofmann-Szantyr, *Lat. Syntax*² 552.