

THEODORE F. BRUNNER

Ἄπολλον (P.RYL. III 498)

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"Ἀπολλων (P. Ryl. III 498)

In his introductory remarks on *P. Ryl. III 498*, C.H. Roberts notes that the piece "is an early example of the use of the papyrus codex for non-Christian literature,"¹ adding that "[o]f the contents there is little to be said, except that they were clearly in iambic verse, and were part of a comedy (most probably New Comedy), not tragedy." Commenting further on Ἀπολλων·ε[in line 11 (verso) in a note *ad loc.*, he holds that [t]his ejaculation, hardly possible in tragedy, is not infrequent in New Comedy: cf. the indices in Jensen's *Menandri Reliquiae* and Meineke's *Comicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*." A. Koerte concurs (*APF* 14 [1941] 124 [n.968]): "Für die Zuweisung an die neue Komödie spricht vor allem der Ausruf "Ἀπολλων in V. 11, den besonders Menander liebt."

Indeed, "Ἀπολλων is not infrequent in New Comedy, with Menander alone using it some twenty-five times.² Still, Roberts's firm rejection of tragedy is open to question. Since (as he himself admits) the text is too scanty to offer much help in identifying the subject matter of the piece, the weight of the argument falls upon the vocative in line 11.

As it happens, "Ἀπολλων is anything but a stranger to tragedy: Aeschylus uses it thirteen times, Sophocles six times, and Euripides nine times. In the majority of the cases, the form resides in iambic verse.³ Old Comedy, for that matter, cannot be excluded either: we find "Ἀπολλων in both Cratinus and Aristophanes, again in iambic passages.⁴ In fact, "Ἀπολλων occurs in other iambic contexts also, cf. Archilochus 25.5 (*IEG* vol. 1) and Ananius 1.1 (*IEG* vol. 2).

P. Ryl. III 498 ultimately finds its way into Austin's *Adespota Novae Comoediae* section as fr. 278. Its rightful place there is less than assured. To be sure, the piece may derive from New Comedy. But, then again, it may not. In any event, there is insufficient cause to reject (as does Roberts) tragedy—the ejaculation is not only possible, but quite frequent there.⁵

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae
Irvine

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¹ Roberts suggests an early third century date, describes the hand as "very small and semi-cursive," and assumes that the codex was "one of those pocket editions of the classics mentioned by Martial as suitable presents at the Saturnalia."

² Austin carries further instances of "Ἀπολλων among his *Adespota Novae Comoediae*, including fr. 242 (= *P. Ant.* 55) 21; fr. 244 (= *P. Hibeh* 5 + *P. Petrie* 4(1) col. 2) 355; fr. 258 (= *P. Hibeh* 6) 35.

³ E.g., Aeschylus *Ag.* 513, 1257; *Ch.* 1057; *Eum.* 85, 198, 574; Sophocles *OT* 80, 919; *El.* 655, 1376, 1379; Euripides *Herc.* 358; *El.* 221; *Hel.* 1204. *LSJ*, incidentally, cites "Ἀπολλων at Aeschylus *Th.* 159, noting, however, that the *locus* is in a lyric passage.

⁴ Cratinus *Pyt.* 198 Kassel-Austin (PCG IV) =7.1 Meineke and 186 Kock; for Aristophanes see, e.g., *Pax* 238; *Av.* 61, 295; *Ran.* 659; *Plu.* 81.

⁵ The TLG's data bank and computing facilities were used in preparing this note.

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CORRIGENDA

S.214, Z.19 lies: Archilochus 26.5.

S.214, Anm.3 lies: Euripides *Herc.*538.