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CALLIMACHUS, HECALE FR. 36,2 H. = FR. 37 H.

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36 (SH 283; ?334, 248 Pf.)

.
] . νικ . . [] . [.
] ε φαῦλον ι . [.
] ο . οἶσεδελαι [.
 γεργέριμον πίτυρίν τε καὶ ἦν ἀπεθήκ_ατο λευκὴν
 5 εἰν ἀλὶ νήχεσθαι φθινοπ_ωρ_ιδ_α [.

In the original publication of P.Oxy. 2529 (vol. XXX (1964), pp.89-90 with plate 3) E.Lobel read line 2 as above, commenting 'I cannot doubt that this line corresponds to the quotation εἰκαίην, τῆς οὐδὲν ἀπέβρασε φαῦλον ἀλετρὶς [fr. 334 Pf.]. But it ended with a different word.' Lobel went on to doubt whether it was the function of the grinder (ἀλετρὶς) to remove the 'rubbish' from a grain. Accordingly neither of the two subsequent editions¹ incorporated fr. 334 Pf. (= 37 Hollis) into the text of the papyrus.

This problem has now been solved. Dr. John Rea kindly re-examined the papyrus for me, and finds that Lobel, most unusually,² misinterpreted the traces: what L. read as ι.[should in fact be α[. So we unquestionably have here ἀπέβρασε]ε φαῦλον ἀ[λετρὶς, as in Suidas. Dr. Rea writes 'With the benefit of a microscope almost all of the remains after φαῦλον can be seen to be from an alpha in the shape characteristic of this hand, that is, with a wedge pointing downwards to the left and with a serif on the apex. There is a prominent vertical fibre running through the middle of the letter, and all the ink that was on this fibre has been removed by abrasion. The serif on the apex is traversed by the fibre, so that we see only the two ends. Most of the upper stroke of the wedge can be seen, and part of the thickening of its point with possibly a shadow of the extremity of the tip. There is another bit of ink from the lower stroke of the wedge near where it joins the back, and above that there is a short stretch of the back itself.'³

¹ Supplementum Hellenisticum, edd. Lloyd-Jones and Parsons (1983), 283 V.2, and my own edition of Callimachus, Hecale (1990), fr. 36,2.

² So surprised was Dr. Rea that he himself urged me to seek a second opinion: 'John Rea's argument that the traces allow and indeed recommend α[, not ι . [, looks all too plausible when one puts the original under the microscope' (Professor P.J.Parsons).

³ Dr. Rea adds 'The remains below and to the left are plausibly interpreted by Lobel as the ends of a grave accent over line 3; although the slope seems rather flat, there is indeed a slight descent from left to right, which suits a grave best. There is one prominent spot of ink which remains unexplained: it is directly above

On p.163 of my Oxford, 1990 edition of Callimachus, *Hecale* I mentioned the possibility that οὐ]δὲν ἀ[πέβρασε (i.e. fr. 37 H., now identified with fr. 36,2) could be recognized also in fr. 22 H⁴ (238c Pf.),². If that proved correct, fr. 22 H (238c Pf.), 1] .cογ...[would preserve an earlier part of the same line as fr. 36,1 (reproduced above) - not that that would help us much at present!⁵

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the iota in line 3 but rather high, on about the same level as the higher, left-hand, trace attributed to the grave accent. This means that it is also distinctly below alpha, under the point where the lower stroke of the wedge met the back. It is so black still that it looks deliberate. If so, it is likely to be part of another lectional sign for line 3.'

Although the metrical sedes of the remnants in line 1 cannot be determined, in line 3 there might be only two letters missing before the hexameter ending (fort. ἐλαί[ων, Lobel). It seems not unlikely that the final word in line 1 would be a noun agreeing with εἰκαίην. Since Naeke (*Callimachi Hecale* (1845), p.142) suggested κριθήν, and since one could imagine a hexameter concluding e.g.]ἔνι κριθήν, I asked Dr. Rea also about the traces in line 1. He replied 'The first letter of the line could be epsilon, I think, if there were any evidence favouring that reading, but I would not care to make any independent suggestion. I do not think that κριθήν is at all likely. There is a descender above the omicron in φαῦλον which would suit rho or iota (among others), but it is far from kappa, and the intervening remains suggest one broad letter or two slim ones.' (I mention this abortive idea in case others should be tempted to follow the same path, or be able to profit from Rea's description of the traces.)

⁴ Dr. Rea does not disagree with Lobel's account of this fragment (nor does he feel able to add anything).

⁵ A very rough estimate might be that four average-size letters would be missing between the last trace of fr. 22,1 and the first trace of fr. 36,1 H.