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DEMOSTHENES 21.126

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S.A.Stephens has published in *ZPE* 77,1989,271-2 a papyrus fragment (P. Dubl. C3 = Pack² 2621) written in a style attributable to the first half of the first century AD, containing most of section 126 of Demosthenes' *Against Meidias*. Unfortunately this appeared after my edition of the speech (Oxford 1990) had gone to press, and I was unable to take account of it there.

She observes that the text "shows one minor variant from the major mss.", namely οὐτω̄ει (meaning οὐτω̄ι) instead of οὐτω̄. However, she fails to observe two other minor variants which appear in her transcript.

One concerns a point of orthography: the papyrus gives ληι[where the medieval manuscripts have, as usual, λειτουργίαν. There is no real objection to λειτ- in the fourth century BC; cf. N.Lewis *GRBS* 3,1960,180-1 and L.Threatte *The Grammar of Greek Inscriptions* 1.371. But the papyrus might be thought to give a little support to those editors who emend λειτ- to ληιτ- here and elsewhere in Demosthenes.

The other is more significant: the papyrus, according to Stephens' transcript, gives επεβουλευεν where the medieval manuscripts have ἐπεβούλευεν. Since the present participle ἐπιβουλεύομενος is used earlier in the section, and Demosthenes is claiming that Meidias' campaign of harassment against him extended over a long period, the imperfect aspect may be appropriate here. However, the immediately preceding verb appears to be aorist (ὑβρῑεν or ὑβρῑε in the medieval manuscripts, not legible in the papyrus), and it is more probable that he used the same aspect for both verbs.

Thus both variants deserve attention, but on balance I should be inclined to leave the text of Demosthenes as it stands in my edition.