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THE BERLIN CORINNA


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On a recent visit to Berlin I took the opportunity to re-examine the famous papyrus of Corinna, P. Berol. 13284 (Pack: 251), originally published by Schubart and Wilamowitz in BKT v(2). I should like to express my thanks to Dr. Günter Poethke of the Ägyptisches Museum and Papyrussammlung and to his colleague Frau Dr. Müller for their cooperation. It is a delightful thing to read a neatly-written papyrus containing real digammas.

The papyrus comes from Hermoupolis and is dated to the second century. For a description and full transcript I refer to D. L. Page, Corinna (Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies Supplementary Paper no. 6, London 1953), 9–17. The text is no. 654 in his Poetae Melici Graeci of 1962. Since then the papyrus has been inspected, at least in part, by J. Ebert (ZPE 30, 1978, 5–12, with a photograph of col. i in Taf. 1). In what follows I note the places where my readings diverge even trivially from those in Page 1953, and comment as appropriate.

Col. i 5]χριντ’ορτίων  6]υρουλονορνι The spot above ρ seems to me not to be ink. 9] λεινιονα But Wilamowitz’s τινα is possible. 12] ιν[. . .],κω ειλ. 13] ψενιδαθι [. . .]ιιι Over δια I see ζια (not an acute accent) and over ει. This is a significant re-reading, because the alleged accent implied accusative δαθτον agreeing with βρεφος and excluded theative δαθιοι agreeing with άντροι (Page, 18; Bolling, AJP 77, 1956, 283). As the application of ζιαθεοι to persons is not found before Philodamus Scarpheus, I included this among the linguistic arguments for dating Corinna to the Hellenistic period (CQ 20, 1970, 284); it must now be discarded as evidence. 15]υλομενταο 16]ιανικα ρεια 17]αλλαντζ[θανατον[, .] 18]λει 19]μωσι with supscript ως above ως 21]υφινω χρων with supscript ψ 22]φαινες with ει above ει 23]πλωνας διενοκθηρνον[ει] with ει above (πλ)ει and ει above ειο 25]γυαεκαε."τε[φιονος] 26] Dotted φ 27]διαστο or διαστο. Compatible with Ebert’s δε κγαρα τω γ’, except that I saw the accent on the omega as an accented, like previous editors, though I confess I did not look carefully at this particular detail. The descender after ωι could belong to a tau among other things. 29] The kappa needs no dot. 30] Something over the final ε, but I am not sure what: ή; η; ? The number of letters lost at the beginnings of lines 32–35 is greater by one than shown in Page; cf. Ebert, 10–11. 32] The omicron dotted; the elision-mark before it probably imaginary. 33] The psi dotted. 34] There is something over ωυ, but I am not sure if it is a breve (which would be problematic if the word is supplemented μουριαδεκκι). At end perhaps λαος 35]επι[. . .].νεθ[. . .],[. .] 36] Βροεια[.] The (doubtful) trace at the end is a low speck, level with the foot of the rho. The letters οι should be aligned under ν(επ). 37] Perhaps room for two implied letters in the gap. 39] ιπαε[. . .] or ιπιε[.] The π should be aligned under υι 40] κοροσεν (ε from ι) 41] ικα 45] Perhaps a high point between ν and τ Schol.: presumably ει επι[ 46] ιοντακαεζα[ 47] αρεοινει[ι] 48] ποιον and 49] ινομον 50] For the letter after νις upsilon is suggested, but it would be abnormally made. 51] ικαλζε or διε[ 53] (below πρ): ]

Col. iii 13 Perhaps πατέ[ 25 τ’ωσίρω 28 ]χριτερ(ω)ν 29 πέτ[ 35 The final punctuation point at mid height. 36 The final high point doubtful. 37 πηχε[ 40 γυ 42 κ[ 44 marg. εικε[ 45 ] φ The three-line scholium belongs next to 46 47 ]περάτεις 49 The mark over the last letter of δεξιως is not ink.

Col. iv 11 τεώ[ 15 Before ταω[ a short horizontal line representing the paragraphos due after this verse. 17 δάκο[ (scarcely ω[) 19 ου[, the o perhaps inserted. 20 τεινάνω[ 23 γαδομή[ (rightly Croenert) 24 The initial letter is represented by the merest specks, and the papyrus is abraded above the following alpha. The space perhaps favours καδ- (Maas) over γαδ- (Croenert). 27 . . . γεξ[ 28 εκφ[ ]ου[ 29 ετεργω[ε 30 καμε[ 31 κιθηρ[ 32 ητιω[ 33 πλειό[ 34 μείδε[ 35 ουντ[ 41 κηκιθ[ 43 δ’αγετ[ω[ 47 τόν[ 48 θαν[ 49 παρν[ (no accent).

Fragmenta incerti loci: l. 1[ 1.2 δημο[ 1.4, the ον very doubtful. 2.4 I cannot see the epsilon at all. 3.1 ου[ The three lines of the scholium are bunched round this line-ending. In the first line I read ]έλαιονπ[ There is a gap after αιμα 4.1 The reading very uncertain. 4.4 The phi has departed. 4.6 The last letter very uncertain; not rho, sooner gamma or pi.

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