W. B. Henry

Simonides, *PMG 541*


© Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn
A re-examination of the papyrus (P. Oxy. 2432) in the Ashmolean Library has made possible a number of improvements to Lobel’s readings; these are set out below, together with some new supplements. For a bibliography, see D. E. Gerber, *Lustrum* 36 (1994), 138f. I am grateful to Dr M. L. West for his comments.


2. ‘’, the base of a circle followed by the lower end of a curved stroke descending from left; not prima facie to be combined as μ’ (Lobel). Of the combinations represented in the fragment, the traces are compatible only, so far as I can see, with αλ (as written in l. 11). αλ (no examples preserved) will also be possible; ακ (κα`κ`αγορε› M. Treu, *RhM* 103 (1960), 321f.) cannot be read. μεγ`αλÆgoro›, the only available attested1 word, suits the space and appears to give appropriate sense: note ll. 2f. αθυρον ετόμα l περιφέρ[ο]ν. Pi. fr. 75 M., a fragment belonging to the same metrical category as Sim. 541, contains four instances of the colarion ++--- (7, 15f.); cf. also Sim. 542 str. 4, 6, Anacr. 434.1 (M. L. West, *ZPE* 37 (1980), 145f. with n. 19). The braggart’s chatter2 is ineffective, and the man of genuine

1 The verb not hitherto before Xenophon; μεγαλÆgcς already at *A. ScT* 565.

2 For this use of καπνός, see W. G. Arnott, *ZPE* 117 (1997), 28 (i). It is I think to be recognized also at Pl. *N.* 1.24f. λέλογε θε μερομιένους ἐκλες ὑθηρ καπνός φερεῖν ἴοντιν, where I take ὑθηρ to stand for Chromios’ merits, in particular his hospitality, just mentioned, with which he can extinguish the chatter of those who find fault with the noble. Lobel quotes in support of the interpretation of smoke in our passage as symbolizing envy Plut. fr. 154 Sandb. τῶν ψόνων ἔννοι τοῦ καπνοῦ εἰκόζοιν, πολλὰ γὰρ ἐν τοῖς ἀρχαιοῦσιν ἄνω, ὅταν ἐκλάργωσιν, ἄρρενιζεται (perhaps from *Ap seni* 7, 787c (Patzig); cf. also *Praec. ger. reip.* 10, 804d, where the comparison is attributed to Ariston (Ar. of Chios, *SVF* 1.402 =
worth retains his pre-eminence (3f.), for truth is all-powerful (5): a similar thought at Pi. O. 2.86–8 μαθόντες δὲ λάμβροι | παγγλασσίαι κόρακες ὦς ἀκραντα γαρ ὑπεύετον | Διὸς πρὸς ὀρνιχα θείων.

3. δε[]: of ε, besides ‘the left-hand arc of a circle’ (Lobel), the tip of the cross-stroke.

5. αλαθεια: of i, a few dots.

6. ‘Besides the presumed “⊤” [relating to the last vowel of ὀφετῶν] there is what looks like a rather flat ’ to their right’ (Lobel). I have failed to see it.


Between ομάχητων and η, a vestige of a high stop on a single fibre.

12. τ, or δ, the tip of the cross-stroke.

14. ] , part of a stroke descending from left at mid-letter level with a further trace lower down belonging to the same stroke. Lobel conjectures that the sense may have been ‘if he is as good as he can be’; εκθ’λδ is among the possibilities.

20. [, a trace of an upright at mid-letter level above ‘the bottom left-hand arc of a circle’ reported by Lobel, which will represent its decorated foot.

Merton College, Oxford

W. B. Henry

Ar. of Ceos, fr. 25 Wehrli). I doubt whether this is relevant: apart from other arguments, ‘das tertium comparisonis ist ... nur das Sich-Entwickeln und Vorhandensein und nichts weiter’ (E. Milobenski, Der Neid in der griechischen Philosophie (1964), 96 n. 99).