W. GEOFFREY ARNOTT

SECOND NOTES ON MENANDER’S SAMIA (ACTS II–V)


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These notes, like the paper recently published in ZPE 121 (1998) 35–44, are a by-product of work devoted to Menander’s Samia during preparation of a third volume for the new Loeb edition of Menander. In all passages of this play the line-numberings will be those adopted by R. Kasser and C. Austin in their editions of the play (Kasser–Austin, Papyrus Bodmer XXV: Ménandre, La Samienne, Cologny–Geneva 1969; Austin, Menandri Aspis et Samia, I: Textus, Kleine Texte 188a, Berlin 1969), and followed by F. H. Sandbach in his Oxford text of Menander (1st edition 1972, 2nd 1990; cf. his and A. W. Gomme’s Menander: A Commentary, Oxford 1973, hereafter referred to as the Gomme–Sandbach commentary). It will be useful for readers to have at their side the photographs of both the Cairo papyrus (C: The Cairo Codex of Menander: P. Cair. J.43227, Institute of Classical Studies, London 1978, plates XXXVII–XLVI) and the Bodmer codex (B: accompanying the Kasser–Austin edition).

1. The opening of Act II

The gap between lines 119 and 120 in B covers some 12 to 16 lines of text, together presumably with space for the XOPH sign at the end of the first act. A few of these lines of text would be taken up with the completion of Demeas’ speech that ended Act I, doubtless expressing the usual apprehension of the character on stage over the approach of a tipsy chorus1, before he made an exit into his house. That would leave probably between 8 and 13 lines missing from the opening of the second act before the Bodmer codex resumes at 120. Their structure and contents are easily surmised from information given by the extant texts.

(1) Lines 121–28 in B contain the close of Moschion’s monologue after he has returned from a brief excursion to a lonely spot (cf. 94), where he had originally planned to work out what he was going to say when he encountered Demeas. When Moschion returns here, Demeas is already on stage but not observed until 127–28 by Moschion, who then wonders whether Demeas has overheard him (ἀχίσκο’ ἀρα; punctuated as a question 2). This implies that Act II began with Demeas entering from his house and delivering a monologue, perhaps expressing his indignation at having seen in his house Chrysis nursing a baby (cf. 130ff.).

(2) P. Oxyrhynchus 2943 (O.17 in Sandbach’s edition) preserves the ends of 3 lines before 120 (]) . 119b, ] . α . 119c, ]σαὶ 119d), as well as of 120–25, where they provide useful supplementation of B’s mutilated text. At the end of 122 O.17 appears to have μο(σχισασ) written in the right margin as identification of a new speaker, although this must be misplaced3; Moschion entered before this, for B’s text shows that he was already speaking at 121.

It seems most likely that Demeas’ monologue ends either at the end of 119d or the beginning of 120, followed directly by Moschion’s first words. Since characters on stage often signal the entry of a

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2 So C. Austin’s edition (Berlin and New York 1970) 2.59, and A. Barigazzi, RFIC 98 (1970) 331. Two points need to be made in favour of this punctuation. Postponed ἀρα is common as an interrogative particle; Sandbach’s objection to it (in the Gomme–Sandbach commentary, ad loc.) as last word in its clause is hardly to be taken seriously when the clause consists of only two words. More important is the fact that there are parallels for placing the particle after the verb (e.g. Eur. Hcl. 640, Ar. Arch. 238) and for its presence as penultimate word in the sentence (e.g. Eur. Hec. 469, Ar. Eccl. 462). Secondly, ἀχίσκο’ ἀρα here can be punctuated as a question without ἀρα having to be interpreted as an interrogative particle; ‘in drama, it is often difficult to determine whether the interrogative force resides in the particle (ἀρα) or is independent of it’ (Denniston, Greek Particles2, Oxford 1954, 48).

3 Cf. E. G. Turner, Oxyrhynchus Papyri XLI (1972) 2 (apparatus on his 119g).
new person with an announcement of his approach\(^4\), it is tempting to supplement 120d with \(\text{προσέρχε-}\)
\(\text{ται} \) or \(\text{ἐρχεται} \) \(^5\) spoken by Demeas, and to assume that Moschion said, either right at, or near the
beginning of, his entry monologue (121 ending, 122) [οὐδὲ] ἐν | ἐγὼ μελετήσομαι ὅν τὸ τʼ ἐνόουν ἐρχομαι.\(^6\)

For the remainder of 121 B preserves a mutilated \(\times - \cup \) . . . οντο εἰ καὶ δι . . \(\times - \cup \). Plausible
supplementation here has proved impossible, and it is uncertain whether this part of the line was spoken
by Demeas or by Moschion. When characters enter by one of the parodoi, they more commonly begin
speaking at the opening of a line (e.g. Dysk. 81, 153, 259, 393, 521, Epitr. 1062, Dysk. 96), but there are
enough instances of mid-line interventions by such characters (e.g. Dysk. 206, 775, Epitr. 442, almost
certainly Asp. 431) to make a decision here hazardous.

II. Details of Text in Act II

136

Many attempts have been made to supplement the missing five or so letters in this verse, now that
the Bodmer papyrus and P. Oxy. 2943 combine to provide the rest:

136 νόθον; [. . . . .]ν γ’ οὐ τοῦ τρόπου τούμοι ἔγεις.

For instance [λόγον] apogr., [λέγον] (with τοῦ τ’ οὗ τρόπου) Handley in CR 21 (1971) 354 and Oxy-
rynchus Papyri XLI (London 1972) 3–4, [πόνον] Barigazzi, RFIC 100 (1972) 341, [μανίαν] Austin,
CGFP 186; but none of these suggestions is wholly convincing. Here Demeas is responding, rather
indignantly, to Moschion’s protest (135) against Demeas’ threat to expel Chrysis and the baby from his
house. With a change of one letter in the paradosis acceptable sense and idiom can perhaps be restored:

νόθον; [μιορόν] κοῦ τοῦ τρόπου τούμοι λέγεις.

An exactly parallel structure with this idiom occurs in Asp. 368, \(\varepsilon\) ν’ ἐστὶν ὁ λέγεις, Διός, τοῦ τ’ ἐμοῦ
τρόπου, as Barigazzi noted, and Kasser (in Austin’s edition of the play) anticipated me in suggesting
κοῦ το replace γ’ οὐ. Yet the doubled article in B’s text may be otiose: could Menander possibly have
written γε κοῦ τρόπου?

156–58

Here B has parapigraph under 156 and 158, deletes its diconon after ποεῖν (156), and converts a
diconon after λέγεις (157) to a single point\(^7\). Supplementation at the end of 156 depends partly on how
one interprets B’s information over speech assignments, partly on the most plausible assessments of the
contents of a mutilated and lacunose text. More of the positive and practical ideas hereabouts, however,
appear to come from Demeas (e.g 154–56), although we cannot gauge how far this may have been true
of the dialogue in the gap before 144; accordingly it seems to me preferable to take λέγεις in 156 as part
of an acknowledgement of this by Moschion. Of the supplements suggested ταῦτα γ’ εὖ | λέγεις
(Austin and Jacques), assigned to Moschion, deserves most support, but perhaps it should be interpreted

\(^4\) For example, ἐρχεται at Dysk. 256, Epitr. 170, Sik. 123, 124; προσέρχεται at Georg. 31, Dysk. 607, Pk. 261, Perinthia
\(^5\) E.g. ἄλλα γὰρ προσέρχεται | [ὁ παις or ὁ Μορσιὼν?
\(^6\) [οὐδὲ] F. Sisti in his edition, ἐγὼ Φοθιάδας and Austin, τὸ τʼ ἐνόουν Barigazzi, RFIC 98 (1970) 161 (τὸ τʼ also
Austin), ἐρχομαι Turner p. 2 (on 119f).
\(^7\) See here the apparatus criticus and plate 6 of ed. pr., Barigazzi, RFIC 98 (1970) 163–64 and 331, 100 (1972) 342 (cf.
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as the first remark in a speech that then extends to μέτευμι in 159. For such approving comments in Menander cf. e.g. Asp. 387, Epitr. 972, Pk. 995, 1012, 1022 (with ὀρθός); Mis. 442 Sandbach = 972 Arnott (ἀγαθός); Epitr. 510 (οὐ κακός); Sik. 350 (πολὺ ... βέλτιον); and Pk. 473, 981–82, Sik. 112 (ὗ). In Aristophanes compare especially Ar. Av. 517, 1614, Ran. 1480–81.

162 ἐστ’ ἄπρε(πές, ἀλλά ἀπέρχομαι (M. L. West in Austin’s edition), or ὀστ’ ἀπέρχομαι (Oguse in Jacques’ edition)? At first sight ὀστ’ (as introducing a logical consequence) seems preferable; in comedy ὀστε introduces a first-person-singular verb indicating intended or contemplated action at Ar. Nub. 668–69, Vesp. 727, Pax 569, Av. 196, Eccl. 1047–48, Men. Dysk. 445, Mis. 283 Sandbach = 684 Arnott. Yet when such action indicates movement, it is normally introduced by ἀλλά, in cases where ‘the speaker breaks off his reflections, and announces his plan of action. Especially with verbs of motion’ (Denniston, Greek Particles 2 8). Austin’s edition (2.61) well compares an exact parallel for this use of ἀλλά in Menander at Sik. 270–71 τὰ δ’ ὀστερα | οὐκέτι λέγειν ἔχοιμ’ ἄν, ἀλλὰ ἀπέρχομαι, but it is possible to cite also a large number of instances in tragedy (where ἀλλά’ εἴμι becomes a standard formula) and earlier comedy: A. Pers. 849, Agam. 1313, Choeph. 781, Soph. Ajax 810, Trach. 86, O. C. 503, Eur. Alc. 209, Andr. 89, Hec. 1053–54, I. T. 636, Tro. 1153, El. 1132, Ion 76, Phoen. 753, 1009, Bacch. 857, Hypsipyle fr. 21.13 (p. 36 Bond, pp. 86–87 Cockle), Phaethon 266 Diggle, Ar. Pax 49, Thesm. 457; see especially E. Fraenkel, Zu den Phoenissen des Euripides (Munich 1963) 28–30; O. Taplin, The Stagecraft of Aeschylus (Oxford 1977) 320–21; and D. J. Mastronarde’s commentary on Eur. Phoen. 753.

167–71

The mutilation in B here is too severe for confident supplementation, but something (exempli gratia) may be worth attempting, if it uses a Menandrean phraseology that is appropriate to its context:

(ΔΗΜΕΑΣ)

167    . . . ἐκείνον βούλομαι.
(325J) ἔξω καλεῖν δεῦρ’ — εἰς τὸ πρόσθεν δ[ἐ]υρό μοι,
Νικήρατ’, ἔξελθ’.
ΝΙΚΗΡΑΤΟΣ
ἐπί τί;
ΔΗΜΕΑΣ
χαίρε πολλὰ σὺ.
ΝΙΚΗΡΑΤΟΣ
170    καὶ σὺ γε. τί ἐστ’;ν;
ΔΗΜΕΑΣ
μνημονεύεις, εἰπέ μοι,
(328J) ὡς οὖ τὸ πρῶτον ἐθέμεθ’ ἡμέραν;
ΝΙΚΗΡΑΤΟΣ
ἐγώς:

167 βούλομαι suppl. Austin.
168–69 εἰς τὸ πρόσθεν δ[ἐ]υρό μοι, | Νικήρατ’, ἔξελθ’) would then be shouted at the door of Nikeratos’ house. At the end of 168 B has δ[ . . ] ῥομαι with traces of one or two letters above the α. These traces I formerly interpreted as part of a marginal indication of speaker (νικήρατ’, Gnomon 42,
1970, 19), but Kasser (in Austin’s edition, II.104) reads them as σι; this combination of letters, however, makes no sense as a supralinear mark of correction. Handley’s suggestion (BICS 16, 1969, 104) that the traces might be identified as ο, correcting B’s μοι to μοι, may be palaeographically less satisfactory, but restores more acceptable sense to the context. Before ρημμι there is a short vertical stroke cut off by a tear; it seems to me to match the bottom of a ν better than that of a χ.


(ii) ἐστὶ τί; cf. e.g. Soph. O. C. 524, ἀλλ’ ἐς τί;
170 Suppl. Barigazzi (but with τί δ’ ἐστὶν).

(i) Although at times the response to a greeting is lacking, for various reasons (anger: e.g. Dysk. 512–13; deep emotion, over-eagerness, etc.: e.g. Mis. 213 Sandbach = 614 Arnott, Sam. 431, com. adesp. fr. 1017.26 Kassel–Austin; social disparity: e.g. Epitr. 860, Mis. 323S = 724A, Sam. 296, 657; or even comic convenience, as often in Aristophanes), the usual polite return in Menander appears to be νη καὶ σῦ γε, with ὥ + vocative (Sam. 129; cf. Leukadia v. 4 Arnott, com. adesp. fr. 1017.77–78 KA, Lucian Tim. 46, Dial. Deor. 2(22).1, Dial. Mort. 6(20).3; cf. M. D. Macleod, CR 20, 1970, 289) or καὶ σῦ γε (Kith. 73; cf. Ar. Pax 718, Lys. 6, Xen. Cyr. 7.2.9; καὶ γὰρ σῦ in Pl. Symp. 214b).

(ii) For τί ἔστι; note especially Georg. 106, Pk. 989, Sam. 386, Sik. 369, and cf. e.g. com. adesp. fr. 1084.24 KA, Ar. Av. 1586–87.

(iii) Cf. e.g. Dysk. 184, where Sandbach keeps B’s text. However, B often writes στὶν incorrectly where ἔστι or ἔστ’ is required (e.g. Dysk. 389, 593, 694, 772, Sam. 383, 497, 556, 600, 664; cf. Austin II.62), and so ἔστι might be preferable here.

171 Suppl. Arnott (after Sandbach’s ὡς σοῦ πρότερον). For τίθεμαι ἡμέραν = ‘I fix/arrange a day’ for some future event, cf. e.g. [Dem]. 42.1, 13. In this context a supplement such as ὡς σοῦ ἄρα ἡμέραν ἐθέμεθ’ ἡμέραν would at first sight appear even more desirable (for ἡμέραν . . . ἡμέραν ‘a specific day’ cf. e.g. Thuc. 6.29.3, 30.1, 64.2, 8.67.1, 93.3, Xen. Hell. 3.5.6, Lucian Alex. 19), but in comedy a syllable ending with a short vowel is lengthened before an initial ρho when that rho begins a new word (cf. M. L. West, Greek Metre, Oxford 1982, 16), and exceptions in comic iambic trimeters are too few (only Pherecrates fr. 113.29, Plato fr. 147) to justify such a supplement here.

194–95
In the lively exchanges between a determined Demeas and rather slow-witted Parmenon about what the latter will soon do in the market, Parmenon responds to Demeas’ [ἄγε καὶ μ]άγειρον at the beginning of 194 with:

καὶ μάγειρον; πριάμενος

195 [ἀ δεῖ;]

This punctuation is advisable because, as the Gomme–Sandbach commentary on vv. 194–95 points out, there is some doubt “whether μάγειρον can be the object of πριάμενος, since a cook must be ‘hired’ not ‘bought’.” The object of πριάμενος, accordingly, is likely to have been written in the four or five

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8 Austin’s conjecture and supplement δ’ ἐθέμεθ’ at the end of 168 is printed in his edition and by some other editors (Paduano, Sandbach, Sbordone), but it has three weaknesses. It requires Β to have a corrupt text δ’ ἐθέμεθ, where (pace Kasser in Austin II.164) γ seems unlikely; it makes B’s letter(s) written above the α harder to explain; and it produces less satisfactory sense in the dramatic context (‘but I come forward’ seems inappropriate if spoken by a Demæs already on stage, and implausible for a Nikeratos whose first remark is likely to be ἔπι τί in v. 169, otherwise the greeting by Demeas that follows (χαίρε πολλά σὸ) would be impolitely delayed.

9 The verb normally used is λαμβάνω; see my commentary on Alexis frs. 209.1–2 and 216.1.
letters of B’s gap before Demeas responds by picking up Parmonon’s πριάμενος. In his first edition of the Oxford text (1972) Sandbach suggested that 195 might have begun with τάλλα, but this would have required the sequence -λα πρ- to be scanned as a long, against normal comic practice. Accordingly I should prefer to supplement with ὅ δει (cf. Sam. 221), with Parmonon thus asking whether he should hire the cook after making his other purchases (garlands, sesame: v. 190).

203–205

Mutilation at the bottom of B’s page leaves only the endings of the last three lines:

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<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>περὶ[ερ]γος ἢ γυνή</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>]..[.]ς ἥλικον</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Editors either assume that lines 203–205 continue the speech begun by Demeas in v. 200 or leave the question of the speaker’s identity open. However, it is rightly agreed by editors and others¹⁰ that Nikeratos must re-emerge from his house before the end of this act and follow Parmonon to market, as he promised at v. 198, and from which he returns with a sheep at v. 399. The mutilation in 203–205 removes any possible paragraphi and dicola, but it seems to me that the remnants of these lines suit better an entering Nikeratos, complaining about his wife (‘my wife’s inquisitive’ 203), perhaps quoting what she has just said to him (‘I beseech [you]’) and giving his reaction (‘So what?’ 205), and summing up his grumbles with ‘How she does go on!’ 205f.). In that case ἥλικον would be followed at the beginning of 206 probably with λαλεῖ or βοῦ (cf. Sam. 255, 553).

206–208

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<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>]..[.]ς ἥλικον</td>
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If an adjective in agreement with χειμὼν is the correct supplement at the end of 206, Sisti’s μέγας (in his edition) wins the vote over Austin’s πολύς (his text) or λαβρός (his edition II.63); although parallels can be found for χειμών with πολύς (e.g. H. Od. 4.566, Xen. Anab. 4.1.15, Plut. Coriolanus 32) and other adjectives (such as σφοδρός: e.g. Lucian, Ver. Hist. 2.47), χειμών μέγας is undoubtedly the standard expression in both Ionic and Attic (e.g. Hdt. 7.34, 170.2, 188.2, Hippocr. Vet. Med. 9; S. Ajax 1148–49, Eur. Phaethon 267 Diggle, Thuc. 4.6.1, 8.34, Pl. Protag. 344d¹¹).

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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Line</th>
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<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>πληγήν τιν’ ἄνυπέρβλητον ἐξ[εἰδόφης] λαβόν</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In support of Jacques’ πληγήν]ήν and Lloyd-Jones’ λαβόν Austin cites Heliodorus 2.32.3 (II.64 and ZPE 4, 1969, 167), but it may also be noted that πληγήν/πληγής λαμβάνω is the normal expression in Attic: e.g. Ar. Vesp. 1325, Pax 493, Ran. 673, 747, Eccl. 324, Cratinus fr. 92.1–2, Philylus fr. 9.2–3, Timocrates fr. 24.6, Men. Dysk. 205; Thuc. 5.50.4, Xen. Cyrop. 1.3.16, Anab. 4.6.15, Isocr. 12.212, Dem. 21.1, 6, 37.37, 54.13, 14, 41; cf. Diphilus fr. 42.32.

¹⁰ See e.g. Blume (op. cit. in n. 7) 76, Frost (op. cit. in n. 4) 106.
¹¹ Cf. N. Bissinger, Das Adjektiv ΜΕΓΑΣ in der griechischen Dichtung (Munich 1966) 106–108, 286, 308, noting that the expression is found first in Alcaeus 338.1–2 Page.
Before στ in C the traces appear\textsuperscript{12} to suit the right-hand hasta of v better than the right edges of the bottom two cross-strokes of ε. Cf. Turner, CR 21 (1971) 353, and the Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc.

\textsuperscript{12} For C here and elsewhere I rely particularly on a set of photographs sent to me some years ago by Professor F. H. Sandbach, helpful and generous on that occasion as always.

§pãgomai m°g' étÊxhma \([\text{[δια κενής (his edition, cf. Π.64), but a contrast with the τότε supplemented at the end of 217 may be preferable here: hence either Sisti’s [νόν ἐγώ or perhaps even [νόν ἔμοι (with ἔμοι in place of ἐμεμφῄ: cf. e.g. Pl. Apol. 38d θρησκευόντος τέ μου καὶ . . . λέγοντος πολλὰ καὶ ἀνάξια ἔμοι and the common expression δοκῶ μοι; Smyth, Greek Grammar, para. 1222–24).}

251–52, 265–66

If Demeas is presented as a wealthy Athenian, we may expect Menander to have imagined that his house conformed to the grander urban examples of the writer’s time\textsuperscript{13}. At least part of it was an οἰκία διπλοὺς (cf. Lysias 1.19), with female slaves having access to both its floors. The plan of the rooms described by Menander is clear. On the ground floor was a weaving-room, probably with a door to the courtyard. In that room there was a couch (on which the baby was dumped, 225–26), and either stairs or a ladder up to the first floor (232–33). The pantry was next to the weaving-room, which one had to cross to reach it if one was coming from some other parts of the house. The weaving-room’s position obviously meant that the women’s part of the house included the ground floor. At 251–52 a slave girl runs in (ἐιθ-) from outside (ἐξωθεν); at 265–66 Demeas on his way from the pantry to his house’s front door and the stage sees Chrysis breast-feeding the baby outside (ἐξω). This implies that the weaving-room fronted the open-air φυλή, and that Chrysis was feeding the baby either in the courtyard or in a portico to one side, and that the front door, as its Athenian name (ἀυλὴς θύρα) suggests, opened onto that courtyard. The vertical loom of antiquity was light enough to be moved out to the yard or to a portico for work during the hot days of summer, and babies were easier to look after in ground-floor rooms with readier access to the house’s well. Since the courtyard, being normally adjacent to the women’s part of the house, was much used by women, it should occasion no surprise if a baby was breast-fed there\textsuperscript{14}.

\textsuperscript{13} A drawing of such an οἰκία διπλοὺς in the Athens of Menander’s time appears in H. A. Thompson and R. E. Wycherley, The Agora of Athens (The Athenian Agora 14: Princeton 1972) 181 fig. 44. On the arrangement of rooms in Demeas’ house see especially J. van Leeuwen’s third edition of Menander (Leiden 1919) pp. 226–27 on his vv. 19–21 (with a suggested but inaccurate plan: the couch on which Plangon’s baby was dumped and the ladder or stairs leading to the upper storey are more likely to have been in the weaving-room itself), and C. Dedoussi’s edition of Samia (Athens 1965), commentary on her v. 19. On houses of the period see especially C. O. Dalman, De aedibus scaenicae comœdiae novae (Leipzig 1929) 38ff., 54–55; D. Robinson and J. Graham, The Hellenic House (Excavations at Olynthus 8: Baltimore 1938); Thompson and Wycherley, op. cit. 173–85; G. Morgan, TAPA 112 (1982) 115–23; V. Hoepfner and E.-L. Schwandner, Haus und Stadt im klassischen Griechenland (Munich 1986); and M. Jameson in O. Murray and S. Price, The Greek City (Oxford 1995) 171–95.

\textsuperscript{14} See e.g. Lys. 3.6, [Dem.] 47.55, and Jameson, op. cit. in n. 13, 186–87.
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If [ἡ] ὁδη καὶ τῶδε is correctly supplemented at the end of this line\textsuperscript{15}, the next line could have continued in several different ways: e.g. ἐγὼ τιθηνοῦμαι (cf. the Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc., ‘Now I’m already fondling this baby, too’), or even φῶνην ἄπε ἵσης ἱππις μεγάλην, with the nurse thus claiming that Moschion’s baby ‘also already’ screams as loudly as Moschion himself used to.

251

Sudhaus’ supplement τοιαῦτα ἐλάλησε (v. 36 in his first edition) is right for length and appropriate for sense, but in such contexts Menander more commonly uses ἐλεγε(ν) (Epitr. 804–805, Heros 24, Mis. 438 Sandbach = 968 Arnott, Sik. 353), εἰπε(ν) (Epitr. 919) and ἔφη (Epitr. 406–407). Hence perhaps τοιαῦτα γ’ ἐλεγε(ν) or εἰπε(ν) (cf. Denniston, Greek Particles\textsuperscript{2} 122–23) might be suggested.

302, 373

At 302 Parmenon tells Chrysis and Demeas’ slaves to keep τὴν γραῦν away from the wine jars, at 373 Demeas presents Chrys with τὴν γραῦν. The Gomme–Sandbach commentary on v. 373 writes “probably the τίτηθι of 237, who might accompany Chrysis of her own free will, . . . she might have belonged to Chrysis before the association with Demeas.” This is judicious, but a little more needs to be said. If the singular used at both 302 and 373 implies that there was only one aged woman employed in Demeas’ house, this would support the suggestion that this old woman was identical with the ex-nurse described in 236–61; and that the ex-nurse’s experience as Moschion’s nanny would make Demeas’ assignment of her to Chrysis with the baby particularly suitable\textsuperscript{16}. Such arguments, however, run the danger of falling into the documentary fallacy much discussed half a century ago\textsuperscript{17}; characters in drama do not exist outside of the written text, and Menander does not himself in the extant portions of Samia identify the nurse of v. 237 with the γραῦς of either 302 or 373, nor does he specify that the γραῦς of 302 was identical with the γραῦς of 373.

304–305

The traces of ink deciphered after θυρας by Sudhaus in his second edition and confirmed by Guéraud, BIFAO 27 (1927) 149 (see also Austin, ZPE 4, 1969, 167) resemble the bottom left-hand corners of two letters that could be a permutation of any one or two from α, ε, ο, θ, σ, φ, ω.

305

ἀκούε δή νυν (C) or δή μου (B)? The Gomme–Sandbach commentary here sums up the evidence for both locations and rightly opts for δή νυν because it is much more common. It may be useful, however, to list the dramatic occurrences of these and related locutions in more detail:


ἀκούε δή μου: Men. Inc. 27.

ἀκούε (-ετε, -ετον) δή: Eur. Ion 336, Ar. Ach. 733, Plut. 76, Pl. com. frs. 188.11, 189.5.


ἀκούε νυν (or νυν: see Denniston, Greek Particles\textsuperscript{2} 218): S. Aj. 1332, Ar. Plut. 975, Eupolis fr. 195.1.

ἀκουσόν νυν ἐμοί: Ar. Vesp. 1381.


\textsuperscript{15} [ἡ] ὁδη was deciphered and supplemented by Sudhaus in his second edition (Bonn 1914); cf. O. Guéraud, BIFAO 27 (1927) 149. τῶδε was supplemented by several.

\textsuperscript{16} Cf. here also R. F. Thomas, ZPE 83 (1990) 216, additionally identifying the θυρασίας (so clearly C as well as B) of v. 382 as the old woman and the servant girl to whom she was talking in vv. 251–61.

\textsuperscript{17} See e.g. (for Shakespeare) L. C. Knights, How many children had Lady Macbeth? (Cambridge 1933), and (for Greek drama) A. J. A. Waldock, Sophocles the Dramatist (Cambridge 1951) 11–24.
After τι C has πρ followed by a badly blotted letter and then traces of the gently rounded top of a letter that matches (pace H. Riad, ZPE 11, 1973, 20) σ better than γ. Cf. Sandbach, ZPE 40 (1980) 51.

All that can be deciphered in C after σων[ ] is a high dot directly over a hole, but it is uncertain whether that trace is the top of a φ (cf. Guéraud, BIFAO 27 (1927) 149, and the Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc.) or an adventitious drop of ink.

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K. B. Frost, op. cit. in n. 4, p. 107, comments first that “at 321 Demeas calls for a strap but it is unlikely that a slave enters in response to the request”, and then “that Demeas’ order at 325a (viz. λάβ’ αὐτόν, seize Parmenon before he gets away) is probably not acted upon, nor addressed to any specific person”18. Both comments reveal blindness to an important fact that Oliver Taplin amongst others has highlighted: “the significant stage instructions are implicit in the words” spoken by the actors (The Stagecraft of Aeschylus, Oxford 1977, 28).

In fact Menander’s text here informs us that at 321–22 Demeas goes to the door of his house and shouts instructions for one of his slaves to bring him a strap. Thereafter a slave, played by a mute, emerges and hands the strap to Demeas. When does he enter? Clearly at 324, as Bain notes in his edition of the play, since it explains why at this point Parmenon cries ἀπόλαλα immediately before running off by one of the parodoi. There can then be little doubt that Demeas’ next command λάβ’ αὐτόν is addressed to the slave who enters with the strap (cf. the Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc.), and that this slave now makes his exit by running after Parmenon along the same parodos, and thus leaves Demeas on stage alone to deliver his second great monologue in this act. These two third-act monologues are fine compositions, but the stage business that they contain is strictly limited, and Menander accordingly has taken trouble to enliven the passage between the monologues with two pieces of predominantly visual activity: the arrival of Parmenon from market with a loaded basket, a cook and one or more of the cook’s assistants (283), and the movements of Parmenon and the slave with the strap as outlined above.

This gnome of Demeas’ has provoked much discussion20 and a variety of interpretations. In defence of the traditional one (ἄκρατος and νεότης as the joint subject of both ἐξεργάζεται and a correctly transmitted λάβη; the dative τούτους also correctly transmitted and governed by the συν- prefix of the preceding participle) the following points may perhaps he made.

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18 Cf. also C. Dedoussi’s remarks in her commentary (Athens 1965), pp. 41–42 on vv. 106 and 110 in her numbering, and Blume (op. cit. in n. 7) 118 n. 72.
19 Every apparatus criticus from ed. pr. onwards reports B’s reading as ἐξεργάζεται without comment, but the alleged first τ may perhaps be a badly written γ with its crossbar allowed to run a little way to the left of the hasta.
(i) The two nouns ἕκρατος and νεότης act in combination as if they formed a singular subject, and so take a singular verb; cf. e.g. Eur. Heracles 774–76 ὁ χρυσὸς ὑπ' τ' εὐτυχία | φρενών βροτοὺς ἐξάγεται | δύνασιν ἄδικον ἐφέλλοις. Pl. Legg. 6.775ε ἄρχη γιὰ καὶ θεὸς ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἱδρυμένη σφῆξε πάντα; K.G. 1.79–80.

(ii) Λάβη (-βη B, -βή C) is supported by both papyri as the subjunctive in an open frequentative clause (‘if ever’ B, ‘whenever’ C), and, in the absence of any separately expressed subject, it seems wiser to assume that ἕκρατος καὶ νεότης also governs Λάβη.

(iii) τὸν συνεπιβουλεύσαντα τοῦτοις πλησίον can mean only ‘the person who has plotted close at hand along with these’, where the ‘person’ is a generalised (and so masculine) expression referring here specifically to Chrysis, and the ‘these’ are (Moschion)’s wine and youthfulness, the two things which in Demeas’ view would have helped Chrysis to seduce Moschion. συνεπιβουλέων is not a common verb; elsewhere (as the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae disc confirms) it occurs both intransitively on its own (Xen. Hell. 5.4.22, Diod. Sic. 5.50.2, Plut. Mor. 64c, [Apollod. Myth.] 2.44) and (as here) with a dative, which can refer either to the person collaborated with (thus governed by the συν-: Josephus A.J. 13.308, Cassius Dio 44.21.4) or to the person/thing plotted against/or (thus governed by the ἐπι-), as commonly with ἐπιβουλέων itself: e.g. Dion. Hal. Ant. Rom. 3.39.2, 4.40.4, Appian B.C. 2.218, Cassius Dio 38.9.3, 60.15.4), or even both together, as the passage of Isaeus 6.55 cited incompletely by Luppe clearly demonstrates: μετὰ τῆς Ἀλκιής ἐκείνης τοῦτο καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις (the collaborators) συνεπιβουλέύσας τοῖς τῶν Ἐυκτήμονος χρήματι (the objectives of the plot).

357

At the penthemimeral caesura B has πρόσθε τῶν, C προσθέν τῶν. Attic drama uses both πρόσθεν and πρόσθε, choosing normally the form metrically convenient (thus for ὅ — —: -θε before a consonant, θεν or θεν before a vowel)22, but a problem arises in those sedes where σ — — is the allowed scansion: across the penthemimeral caesura in both tragedy and comedy, and in the first half of the third metron in comedy alone. The relevant passages are:

(a) at penthemimeral caesura:
S. Ant. 434 προσθε τάς: θε LSV.
El. 918 πρόσθε(ν) συγγός: θε LNGRT, -θεν cett.
Eur. Andr. 54 πρόσθε(ν) σφάλμα: -θε MBOAV and Σvny, -θεν LP and Σv1m.
Suppl. 416 πρόσθε(ν) σφάλμα: -θε L.
I.A. 619 πρόσθε(ν) στήτη: -θεν L.
Ar. Equ. 751 πρόσθε(ν), χρή: -θε ΡΦ, -θεν Α.
Men. Mis. 68 Sandbach = 468 Arnott πρόσθε μοι: -θε O.
Sam. 357 πρόσθε(ν) τῶν: -θε B, -θεν C.

(b) at first half of third metron:
Ephippus fr. 3.2 πρόσθε(ν) τῶν: (Ath. 9.370c) -θε ΑΕ, -θεν C.
Men. Sam. 168 πρόσθεν δ[ι] B (see above).
Sam. 214 πρόσθεν π[ι] B.
Sam. 405 πρόσθε τῶν: -θε BC.
Cf. also Men. Pk. 299 (at the end of a trochaic tetrameter) πρόσθε τῶν θυρῶν: -θε C.

Manuscripts are here clearly unreliable and inconsistent guides to orthography, as L’s variations show in the passages of Euripides listed. Although we should probably be unjustified to demand here any greater degree of consistency from the dramatists themselves, it might be advisable to standardise

21 I should like here to express my gratitude to Mr Lionel Scott for his time, instruction and generous assistance with this material.

22 Ellendt’s judicious remarks in his Lexicon Sophocleum (Berlin 1872) pp. 664–65 are still authoritative; see also F. Selvers, De medieae comœdiae sermone (Diss. Münster 1909) 14, Kassel–Austin on Ephippus fr. 3.2, and Dover’s commentary on Ar. Ran. 286.
our printed texts, by using as our guides the orthographical practice of Attic inscriptions contemporary with the relevant author. In Menander’s time πρόσθεν was the form used normally on inscriptions, and so perhaps should be adopted for the passages of Menander’s text listed above.

My photographs (see above, n. 12) clearly confirm Sandbach’s statement (ZPE 40, 1980, 51) that here C (as well as B) has ποιησαί.

Remarkably both B and C here present θυβέν (B - θέν) as the aorist passive participle of θυω, and even more remarkably virtually all editors from Sudhaus and Körte down to Sandbach and Bain accept θυβέν as the Menandorean orthography. Yet the facts are unambiguous.

(i) The manuscripts of Ionic and Attic writers always – apart from this one passage – preserve έτούνα as the aorist passive form (e.g. Hdt. 1.216.3, 6.57.1, A. Choeph. 242, [Dem.] proem. 54, Arist. Poet. 17, 1455b3 and 11; cf. the pluperfect at Antiphon 1.17).

(ii) In Attic, aspirate assimilations of the type instanced in θυβέν, where successive syllables correctly containing an aspirated and a voiceless stop are spelled with both stops aspirated (e.g. έθοθήν, θήθμητι, ἱνθοῦσα), are not rare in inscriptions of the fifth century B.C., less frequent in the fourth century, and extremely rare after 300 B.C. (cf. Threatte, 1.455–62). No example, however, of the θυβείζ form is preserved in Attica.

(iii) Outside Attica θυ(σ)θείζ infrequently occurs:
(1) on inscriptions, e.g. from Amorgos in the third century B.C. (IG 12(7).241.14) and from Tegea c. 400 B.C. (V. Bérard, BCH 13, 1889, 281–93: line 23);
(2) on papyri of the imperial period, as here and e.g. Melito De Pascha 71 (P. Bodmer 13, end 3rd century; Chester Beatty papyrus, 4th century), Didymus Caecus, Comm. on Psalms 35–39 p. 284 Gronewald (4th century or later).

Consequently van Leeuwen’s correction of Sam. 400 to τυβέν (in his editions) deserves support.

The line provides a further instance of the difficulties that B provides when it is both corrupt and mutilated. Here, early in the trochaic tetrameters of the fourth act, Demeas has been praying to Apollo for help with his efforts to proceed with Moschion’s wedding. The most convincing addition after έγώ must be Barigazzi’s έγάρ (RFIC 98, 1970, 262), which would presumably have been omitted by a scribe nonplussed by its postponement to fifth word in its clause. Attempts to supplement the opening of the line need to take account of the lofty traces remaining from its second letter, which can be identified only as either the top of a ξ or a rough breathing. Hence Barigazzi’s έγάρ[ου’ ο]ξ (loc. cit.: ‘I’ll conduct [the wedding]’) has won some support, although the absence of an object with this verb here counts against it. Menander may rather have written ἄρξου’ ο’κ, and the scribe then have originally mistranscribed it as ορωμ’ (or rather perhaps ορωμαί in scriptio plena) οκ, adding the omitted ξ above ρ or ρο as so often elsewhere in this papyrus. The appropriateness of ἄρξου’ here is underlined by LSJ’s

23 See especially Threatte I.640–43, noting that in Attic manuscripts there is a gradual increase in frequency of ephelcystic ξ ‘until Hellenistic times, by which the use of it is virtually universal before vowels and pauses, and certainly normal before consonants’. Cf. also Meisterhans–Schwyzer 113–14 and LSJ s.v. πρόσθεν.

24 The Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc. cites BCH 7 (1883) 65 for a Delphic inscription of the 3rd century B.C., but this is a wrong reference.

25 But not P. Oxy. 1300, which does not preserve this part of the text.
note (s.v. ērxv) that the middle of this verb is used in Attic particularly ‘where personal action is emphasized’.

458–60

MOSΧΙΩΝ

458 [τί τ]ιούς φίλους

προσδοκής ἑρεῖν πυθομένους:

ΔΗΜΕΑΣ

. . . . . . ο Μοςχίων.

460 τούς φίλους, ἔα μ᾽.

In this exchange the traces of the letter after πυθομένους are too scanty for plausible identification, while before ο Μοςχίων there is only a small spot that could be the top of a right-hand vertical amongst other things. Despite claims that Demeas’ response to Moschion might have been cut off by a deliberate aposiopesis (thus μ[ηδέμω]ζ, ὧν Blume, Menanders »Samia«, Darmstadt 1974, 177–78 and n. 22; π[ροσδόκης] ζ [γό] Sandbach, edition and Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc.), it is inherently more probable that Demeas’ reply included a verb governing τούς φίλους in 460. Lloyd-Jones originally suggested (YCS 22, 1972, 135 n. 26) μ[ή λέγητ]ε, ὧν, but perhaps something more forceful and dismissive would be expected from Demeas: e.g. ο[ὐ προτιμ]μ[ω], Μοςχίων, | τοὺς φίλους: ‘I care nothing about our friends’; for this use of προτιμῶ see LSJ s.v. II and Dover on Ar. Ran. 638, and cf. especially A. Agam. 1415 ο[ὐ προτιμ]μ[ῶν, ὡσπερ] ξτ[οῦ μόρον and Eum. 739, Eur. Hipp. 48 το γὰρ τῆςδ’ ο[ὐ προτιμήσω κακόν, the preponderance of manuscripts at Thuc. 8.64 τὴν . . . ψυχ[ῆ]αν ο[ὐ προτιμήσαν]τες (with the Gomme–Andrewes commentary ad loc.), and Hesych. s.v. ο[ὐ προτιμά] ’ο[ὐκ ἔχει λόγον.

478–79

B’s text here, ὡστε μηκετί | προς εμε παιζε, poses two problems which defy assured solution.

(i) B’s end of 478 has two syllables too many; Menander must have written either ὡστε μή (Austin’s text) or μηκέτι (Austin’s apparatus). Elsewhere Menander has ὡστε introducing positive (but not negative) commands (present imperative fr. 740.18 K.Th. = 602.18 K.A., cf. com. adesp. fr. 1063.2 Kassel–Austin; aorist Pk. 167–68), and μηκέτι followed by a present imperative (Asp. 202, fr. 177.4 K.Th. = 155.4 K.A.). Instances are too few to settle doubts here, but μηκέτι | . . . παιζε may have a slight edge.

(ii) Do we print προς ἔμε or emend (with Jacques in his edition) to προς με; με is six times as common in Menander as ἔμε, but in many places where one form is presented by a papyrus, the other would also scan (e.g., after προς: Asp. 167, 391, Pk. 267, 327, Sam. 308, 454, 719, as well as here). Since there appears to be less difference in emphasis between the two forms in comedy than one would expect, it would be wise to keep the transmitted reading wherever it scans and makes acceptable sense.

482–83

B here has εἰπὲ μοι εἰς σεαυτὸν ἀναδέχεται τὴν αἰτίαν, where scansion reveals that εἰπὲ μοι is misplaced by the scribe. But should it be moved after σεαυτὸν, necessitating further the transposition of τὴν αἰτίαν and ἀναδέχεται (so Austin in his edition), or right to the end of its sentence, after αἰτίαν (so at least five scholars)? The latter suggestion seems preferable, if we compare Menander’s placing of a parenthetic εἰπὲ μοι in questions elsewhere. Most commonly εἰπὲ is third to sixth word in its sentence (sixth at e.g. Dysk. 466, Sam. 453); only once does it introduce the question (Asp. 310, where the question is confined to the one word γαμεῖν).
The lacuna at the end of 505 is too long for confident restoration of Demeas’ remark, but even exempli-gratia attempts must satisfy two requirements.

(a) The traces after τα suit χ better than υ; the foot of the letter curls more to the left than is normal with this scribe’s υ.

(b) Demeas’ remark comes between two by Nikeratos, one threatening Moschion with blindness and cancelling his wedding, the other apparently accusing Demeas of a slave’s spineless behaviour. Demeas’ words must suit that context.

There are many possibilities. I suggest two, without stating a preference. ταχ’ ἂν ἐγώ, Νικήρατε would translate ‘Perhaps, Nikeratos, although wronged, I might be curbing (my anger)’, with κατέχω intransitive as at Pk. 824, and ταχ’ ἂν + imperfect indicative as at Dem. 36.55. Secondly ταύτην ἄκοιμης, τὴν χολήν, where the comparison would be with S. El. 1011, Men. fr. 517 K.Th. = 740 K.A. – Philemon fr. 157 Kassel–Austin (κατέχειν + ὀργήν), and S. O.C. 874 (+ θυμόν).

F. H. Sandbach (in the second edition of his Oxford Text of Menander, Oxford 1990, p. 345) claims that Philostratus, Apoll. Vit. 7.22 cites this verse (or part of it). This is incorrect; the passage of Philostratus, which runs "ποί παρατενεῖς", ἐφη, "δεδιωκός ταύτα", is relevant only as a parallel for the use of παρατενεῖς with a participle.

The Gomme–Sandbach commentary at v. 561 rightly upholds the view that the woman threatened there with murder is Chrysis, not Nikeratos’ wife; in Nikeratos’ belief (but see also vv. 76–85) it was Chrysis who had masterminded the plot to conceal the identity of the baby’s mother, and so deserved the death penalty. However, at v. 580 in the commentary (as also in Austin’s edition, II.90f.), Sandbach maintains that the intended victim of attack had changed in the intervening 19 lines from Chrysis to Nikeratos’ wife, because “the idea of killing Chrysis . . . would now incidentally be pointless because it would not secure the child, the house being full of other men and women”, and would “not do justice to Menander’s ability to give continued new turns to events”; thus τὴν γυναῖκα in v. 580 (and presumably also τῇ γυναικί in v. 585) would denote Nikeratos’ wife.

These statements fail to take account of several dramatically relevant points.

(i) In this act Nikeratos is not presented as a man behaving calmly and logically, but as one enraged into making manic threats (to burn the baby 553–55, to kill Chrysis 560–61, to attack her 577–78); his madness is recognised by Demeas (563). In such a state Nikeratos would hardly be expected to consider rationally any possibility of access to the baby, or to worry about the number of people in his way.

(ii) If Nikeratos’ fury is directed throughout solely at Chrysis and the baby as his victims, it can be argued that the plot gains in focus, power and consistency.

(iii) Demeas would be more likely to raise his fists against Nikeratos (as he does at v. 582) in defence of Chrysis and his own house than in defence of Nikeratos’ house and wife.

The Gomme–Sandbach commentary at v. 580 seeks to bolster the argument opposed above by claiming that εἰσῆδω (581) refers to Nikeratos entering “his own house (the usual meaning of εἰσῆδω)”; εἰσέρχομαι in fact is frequently applied by Menander to characters entering other people’s houses (e.g.

26 Cf. van Leeuwen’s commentary ad loc. (on his v. 236, p. 236 in his third edition, Leiden 1919).

27 But not at 573, where μηθοίμος (B after correction) is preferable to μαίνεται (C) and (pace A. H. Groton, AJP 108, 1987, 440–41) μαίνομαι (B before correction).

675

ΜΟΣΧΙΩΝ

675 οὗτος, οὗ φέρεις;

ΠΑΡΜΕΝΩΝ

σὲ γὰρ ἔπεισαν οὗτοι πάλαι.

So both B and C, omitting a syllable in Parmenon’s answer to Moschion’s question. The transmitted text, however, makes complete sense: “No, for they’ve been waiting a long while for you”. Virtually all the editors print Sudhaus’ (σε), palaeographically acceptable but perhaps overemphasising the “you”. Leo’s supplement γὰρ (τοι) was firmly dismissed by Wilamowitz28 because this collocation of particles was becoming, if it had not yet totally become, obsolete in Menander’s day; even so, it is remarkable that Wilamowitz failed to note a remarkably close parallel in Heliodorus 4.6.3, ὃ δὲ “χαίρε” εἶπεν ὁ Καλάσιρι, καὶ ἀκούει σὲ γὰρ τοις περιέμενον”.

680–81

Parmenon’s words βοδίζων νῆ Δί’, ἔξευρηκά γε (so B: τε C) | τόδε κακὸν have in recent times been variously interpreted (Austin’s edition, II.97; Sandbach in the commentary, ad loc.; Gronewald, ZPE 93, 1992, 23), but the superiority of Austin’s (“τόδε κακὸν: ad διακέκομμα τὸ στόμα (sc. in v. 679) pertinent”) is revealed more clearly when the syntax is correctly explained. Parmenon has failed to obey Moschion’s orders and been punished by Moschion striking him in the face and splitting his lip. Parmenon reacts by feeling his lip and saying “I am going. Yes, by Zeus (cf. Denniston, Greek Particles 128, and the Gomme–Sandbach commentary ad loc.), I have discovered that this (not ‘the lip’ precisely but rather its present soreness) is bad.”

693–94

ός ὅρας, ἠδὴ βαδίζει κάστιν ἐν ὄδῷ. [νῦν δὲ δεῖ καίμε τοὺς ἐνδόν προσεπεῖν.

Editors who prefer to supplement some of the gaps in B here have preferred νῦν δὲ χρή (Blume, Lowe, Page) to νῦν δὲ δεῖ (West: cf. Austin, ZPE 4, 1969, 169), but it may be worth pointing out that elsewhere χρή occurs some 12 times in Menander and δεῖ at least 120.

703–705

ἡγνόσσῃ; ἡμαρτον᾽ ἐμάνην, ἄλλ᾽ ἐκεῖν᾽ ὅρ[θὸς σκόπεῖν]

εἶξ γε τοὺς ἅλλους ἁμαρτόν, σοῦ πρόνοιαν ἠλίκη[ν

705 εἶχον . . .

Austin’s supplement ὅρ[θὸς σκόπεῖ at 703 (see his edition) deserves wider support. Photographs can be deceitful, but that of B here seems to have traces of an elision mark after εκείν, and the long tail that survives from the letter after φ can be part only of an ρ or ι. For the collocation ὅρθὸς σκόπεῖν there are many parallels (Thuc. 3.12.3, Eur. Phoen. 155, Ar. Nub. 742, Pl. Crat. 405e, Charm. 171b, 172e, Legg.