METRICAL INSCRIPTIONS

I publish here three sepulchral epigrams which have been found during the course of the American excavations of the Athenian Agora.¹ In dealing with inscriptions like these, one can hardly claim literal accuracy for proposed restorations. However, it does seem that in a good many instances the general sense of the lost parts of these inscriptions has been recovered.

28.² Fragment of Hymettian marble. The left side is preserved, but the stone is broken away above, below, at the right, and at the back. It was found on May 3, 1934 in Section K, in a modern wall.

Height, 0.17 m.; width, 0.11 m.; thickness, 0.064 m.
Height of letters, 0.008 m.
Inv. No. I 1466.

The inscription is of the Hellenistic period, probably of the second century B.C. In line 7, the initial letter of (e)ις appears on the stone as Ξ.

1 [..]φηθή[- -----------------------------]  
\'Αριάδα τὴν οἶ[[- -----------------------------]  
aἰαὶ τῆ(υ) Μοῦση ὑ[- -----------------------------]  
ἀγιανὴν ψυχὰ[τὴν ὄλειε Μοῖρα κακῆ.]  
5 δάκων δὲ στογ[αχᾶς τε λυποῦσ' αἰῶν γυναῖκαν.]  
ἀντὶ γάμων, οἶμ[οι, ἐν τῶ δόξῃ σῆμα ἔλαχον.]  
[τ]οι μοὶ βαβύν (e)ις Ἀχ[έοντος ἐβην δόμον εὐφό ἐδρότος?]  
εἰς πτόρ δὲ στ[οίη σῶμα δοθὲν γένετο.]  

TRANSLATION

... Evil Fate destroyed my life when I was eight years old. Leaving to my parents everlasting tears and lamentations I have won, alas, instead of marriage, only this grave. I have gone into the deep abode of broad-flowing(?) Acheron, and my body, committed to the pyre, has become a heap of ashes.

¹ Acknowledgments are gratefully made to B. D. Meritt, who has read the manuscript, and to J. H. Oliver and Eugene Vanderpool, who have examined the stones in order to verify several readings which could not be determined from the squeezes and photographs. I have had no opportunity to see the stones myself.
² The inscriptions are numbered in sequence after those published by B. D. Meritt in the first number of Hesperia for the current year.
It cannot be determined whether this poem was written in the elegiac meter or in hexameters. As elegiac verse is more usual in sepulchral epigrams, I have made the restorations in this meter. The even lines are not indented on the stone, but this does not tell against the supposition that we have to do with elegiac verse. For an elegiac inscription of this period with a straight left-hand margin see W. H. Buckler and David M. Robinson, *Sardis*, VII, 1, p. 108, fig. 100.

Line 2: *Ἄτθίδα*. This may be the name of the deceased.


Line 5: Cf. δάκρυα καὶ στοναχάς λεήψας αἰών γονεῖσιν, Kaibel, 587, 2; τοκεῖσιν δυστήρων ἔλιπον δάκρυα καὶ στοναχάς, Kaibel, 224, 3–4; ματέρι καὶ γενέτρι στύγνα λιπὼν δάκρυα, Kaibel, 256, 6. On the assumption that the deceased was a girl I have restored λιπόν’ rather than λιπών. This assumption is rendered to a certain extent plausible by the feminine name in line 2, although it cannot be proved that this was the name of the deceased. No evidence as to the sex of the deceased can be derived from line 6, where the untimely death before marriage is lamented. This sentiment may appear characteristically feminine to us, but it was not so regarded among the Greeks. Many instances of this lament are to be found in the epitaphs of men and women alike. It will be noticed that in this

1 Hereafter, the author's name alone will be used in references to this work.
verse, as restored, there are six word-accent, each of which coincides with an ictus. This is almost equalled by δέκαμα και στονάρχας λειψας αιθών γοβερσιν, Kaibel, 587, 2; or ἀπ' τοῦ νυμφίου ξωτήρα λαβὸν ξίφος ἐμπατι δόξε, Anth. Pal., 7, 152, 3; or ἡ καται καὶ Ἰον Τελεμάχονος δῆ τιν θά ἐμπης, Anth. Pal., 7, 149, 1; or [οί de φύλλα ξ]όσι βροτον [γενεα] 

Line 6: Cf. ἐν δ' ἔλαχον σήμα τὸν ἀντί γάμου, Kaibel, 227, 6.

Line 7: The adjective βαθίς is applied to various features of the underworld. Cf. βαθίς Λάθας . . . δόμον, S.E.G., IV, 91, 6; βαθίς εἰς Ἀχέρωνα, Anth. Pal., 7, 488, 1; τόμ βαθίς εἰς Ἄιδην, B.C.H., IV, 1880, p. 170, no. 25. We find δόμον . . . εἰς Ἀχέρωνα, Anth. Pal., 7, 181, 1. For the doubtful restoration ἔνθε χέοντος cf. Iliad 2, 849 = 16, 288, where the epithet is applied to the river Axios.


29. Four fragments of a column of Pentelic marble join to form two non-contiguous groups. Fragments A and B contain the beginning of the inscription and part of a relief above it. These fragments are broken away on all sides, though the inscription is broken away only at the right. They were found on May 15, 1936 in a late Turkish wall in Section Σ.

Height, 0.501 m.; estimated diameter, 0.55 m.

Height of letters, 0.02 m.

Fragments C and D are broken away on all sides and at the back. The inscription is broken away above and at the back. They were found on May 15, 1936 in a late Turkish wall in Section Σ.

Height, 0.28 m.; width, 0.40 m.

Inv. No. I 4129.

The date is probably in the first or second century A.D.

Δάκρυσον, παροδείπτα, [- - - - - - - - name]  
ἐμπορον ἐν λῃ(τ)στῳ[θ] . . . 8½ . . . [. - - - -]  

ὅτι μάτης τείμαΣα[α] [πομβο]ν δοτι γέγ[ε]να

οὐχ Ἰδειν, οὐ γενή[της]? 8½]λος ἐρλεξε ἡκευν.

αἰαί, καὶ τέφ[ε] ἄλειν ἐπε[ι]ο προσεδεξαθ' ὁμένος


Translation

Weep, traveller, for (name of deceased), a merchant, who was killed in (?) . . . of (?) pirates . . . His mother, after sending him forth just when he was getting his beard, did not see him again, (and) his father (?) . . . did not (?) burn the body. Alas, after his wife, the partner of his couch, had been waiting, there came (back) ashes, instead of the husband.
Line 1: Probably the name of the deceased occupied a part of the lost portion of the line. δαμέντα is restored exempli gratia. This verb is suggested by ληττήςος ... ἀρτέ ἐδυμίσθην, Anth. Pal., 7, 737, 2. For δάμασσον transitive, cf. Peek in Hermes, 67, 1932, p. 131, no. 3, 2; Mendel in B.C.H., 27, 1903, p. 315, no. 3, 1.

Line 2: The deceased was evidently a victim of pirates. No very convincing restoration for this line has occurred to me. Perhaps we should restore ἐν ληττ(ι)στῶ[ν δόμασι - - - ], “in the haunts of pirates.” Another possibility is ἐν ληττ(ι)στῶ[ν χερσοι - - - ], “at the hands of (?) pirates.” For this translation of ἐν χερσοί cf. Anth. Pal., 7, 665, 5–7 ἀλλ' ἐνι γαίῃ πατρίδι καὶ τύμβου καὶ πτερέων ἐλαχεὶν κηδεμόνων ἐν χερσίν, “but he got funeral and a tomb in his own country by the hands of his own people” (Paton’s translation in The Greek Anthology, Loeb Classical Library); cf. also Ἑλίτων ἐν γείρεσιν ὄ[λεσμας], I.G., Rom., IV, 272, 5, which probably means, “who perished at the hands of the Celts.” However, in these two instances of the phrase, as well as in the hypothetical ἐν χερσοί of line 2, the preposition may possibly have purely local significance. Cf. τῆλε τέκνων πάτερ[ας τε, φίλων ἐν χερσοί θανάτες, Peek in Ath. Mitt., 57, 1932, p. 58, no. 9, B, 3.

Line 3: It is not easy to see why the Doric form ματηρι should have been written, especially when ληττ(ι)στῶ[ν] is used in line 2. R. Wagner, Quaestiones de epigrammatis Graecis ex lapidibus collectis grammaticae, p. 17, says that Doric forms are found in non-Doric epitaphs of ephebes, and that this is done "ex imitatione Pindari fortasse tamquam celeberrimi roboris juvenilis praeconis." See also B. Kock, De epigrammatum Graecorum dialectis, p. 35. A. de Mess, Quaestiones de epigrammate Attico et tragoedia antiquiore dialecticae, p. 19, quotes Wagner and adds, "Graecos ... neque vero constanter eis (i.e., Doric forms) usos esse." It will be remembered that we are considering the epitaph of a youth. de Mess, however, states further (op. cit., p. 21) that while the earlier writers of epigrams occasionally used Doric forms for poetic coloring, this use "sane magnopere differt a temporum recentiorum intemperata licentia." Is this ματηρι to be regarded as introduced more or less appropriately for poetic coloring into a youth’s epitaph, or is it merely an example of "intemperata licentia"?

Line 4: γεν[έτης] is suggested by ματηρι in the preceding line. Possibly the father’s name filled up the rest of the lacuna. If this is so, an asyndeton will result. An asyndetic style is not unusual in epigrams. Cf. ... ἵνα καλέω σε τί το ξένον; οὐκ ἔσχατας [Ἀνδρός] ὀδυσμένου, Graindor in B.C.H., 51, 1927, p. 326, no. 90, 1–2; Φίμου μὲ Φίμου, πνεύμονος τῶν πνευμάτων, ὁ παῖς ὁ φήτωρ τῶν πατέρα τῶν φήτῃς, Anth. Plan., 322 (J. H. Oliver has called my attention to this example); Ἡράκλειτος ἐγώ· τί μ’ ἔσω κάτω ἔλεετ' ἐμοισοι; Anth. Pal., 7, 128, 1.

1 Verrall is probably right in retaining ματηρος (the reading of M, corrected to μητρος in later mss.) in Aesch., Sept. 519 (trimeter), although most editors give μητρος. The boast of Parthenopaeus is apparently being quoted sarcastically, in his own Peloponnesian dialect.
No. 29. Fragments A and B
No. 29. Fragments C and D


30. Four fragments of Pentelic marble join as one piece, preserving part of a smooth top. They were found in 1934 and 1935 in modern walls in Section Ξ. The piece is broken away at the back, at the sides, and below.

Height, 0.40 m.; width, 0.87 m.; thickness, 0.28 m.

Height of letters, 0.022–0.025 m.

Inv. No. 1 2122.

The date is in the second or third century A.D.
MALCOLM MACLAREN, JR.

For a little while, O passer-by, fix your eye upon the stone, and learn what I say (as I lie) here in the grave. Indeed once among the living I regarded life as sweet, acquainted, as I was, with every joy . . . and Bacchus Bromius always was dear to me . . . harvest for (?) men, after living honorably for forty-seven years . . . among the dead . . . Aphrodite (?) . . . and good . . .

At the ends of several verses there are marks of punctuation on the stone, i.e. after λέγω, 2; after ἔδρασα, 3; after Βρόμως, 4; probably after καρπὸν, 6 (note the spacing of the letters); before καὶ, 9 and before the fragmentary alpha at the beginning of 10. The number μξ', 7 is enclosed within marks of punctuation.

These marks often serve as a guide to the irregular metrical scheme. Many inscribed epigrams show strange combinations of hexameters and pentameters; cf. I.G., III, pt. 2, 1379 (hex., hex., pent., pent., pent.); Kaibel, 785 (hex., pent., pent., hex.): I.G., XIV, 2437 (pent., pent., hex., pent., pent., hex., pent.). By glancing at the Metrorum Tabula in Kaibel (pp. 701–703) one could make numerous additions to this list.
Line 1: From the squeeze I read ıCTHCAC, hence [ε]πιστήσας. E. Vanderpool sees these two fragmentary vertical strokes on the stone. Cf. βαιόν ἐπιστήσας ἱχθός ἐνθάδε τύρπον ἔθησον, Kaibel, 690, 1; βαιόν μεῖνον, ξείνε, καὶ ἰστερον ἵνα προφέση, μὴ προλιπών στήλην, ἀλλὰ μαθὼν [τ]π ἔγει, Kaibel, 388, 1–2; βαιόν στήσον ἱχθός, Kaibel, 616, 1; βαιόν, Kaibel, 185, 1; 288, 1. For an expression similar to ἐπιστήσας ... καὶδὸν cf. τοῦς ὅφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὴν γῆν στήσας, Philostratus, Vita Apollonii, 1, 10. Should we restore [ε]πιστήσας στήλη(ι) instead of [ε]πιστήσας στήλη(ι)?

Line 2: For τη(ι)δ' cf. τηδέ ... ἐπὶ τύμβῳ, Anth. Pal., 7, 153, 5.

Line 3: The restoration πορ' was suggested to me in conversation by Dr. Kurt Latte. Cf. πορ' εὕ ὑοίεν, Peek in Ath. Mitt., 56, 1931, p. 122, no. 5, 3.

Line 4: For δντῶς in the sense of “acquainted with” cf. Soranus, I, 3, ἡ γραμμάτων δντῶς, also Chrysippus Stoicus, Π, p. 41, line 29 (von Arnim), ἰβιδ., ΠΙ, p. 120, lines 11, 19, 22. The restorations here proposed leave room for one more letter at the right-hand end of line 3 of the inscription. The right-hand margin of the inscription, however, was not necessarily straight. If we restored πάσης [ς γε εὑρε]σοννης the lettering would extend to the margin, and we could find many parallels for the writing of the elided ε, as for example, I.G., 2, 3138 which has δ' εἰκών, 2, but δὲ ἱππαν and τε ἐν, 3.

Line 5: Cf. ἀλλὰ φίλος Μονοσών, Βρομίου Παρίς τε βιώσας, Kaibel, 614, 4. The deceased may have been an Eleusinian initiate.

Line 6: μ' is to be read τεταράκοντα καὶ ἐπτά. Cf. Καλότινξε, τε[χ]θε[+]ς λυκάβατας μ' (i.e. τεταράκοντα), Kaibel, 280, 2; cf. also Kaibel, 558, 10 (addenda). For a different treatment of numerals, cf. ξ' read as ξι Kaibel, 279, 1.

Line 8: Ἀφροδίς may be the beginning of the name of a man or of a woman, but more probably it is the goddess, inasmuch as there is a reference in line 5 to Bacchus.

MALCOLM MACLAREN, JR.