

NOTES AND DISCUSSIONS

CLAUDIAN, *CARMINA MINORA* 20.13

In Claudian's delightful poem about the old man of Verona, the old man himself is the subject of every verb between v. 6 and v. 16—except, it seems, in v. 13. Verses 11–13 run as follows:

frugibus alternis, non consule, computat annum:
autumnū pomis, ver sibi flore notat.
13 idem condit ager soles idemque reducit,
metiturque suo rusticus orbe diem.

In v. 13 *ager* is very hard to translate, as is shown by Platnauer's version in the Loeb: "From the selfsame fields he watches the sun rise and set." The emendation proposed here is *agens*, in the intransitive sense of "hard at work," much like *agilis* (*OLD* 3). From the instances given in the *OLD*, *ago* (23) I choose:

desidiam puer ille sequi solet, odit agentes (*Ov. Rem.* 149)

and

quae pati non potest animus ad civilia erectus agendique cupidus et natura inquires (*Sen. Dial.* 9.2.9)

The theory is that the *-s* disappeared by haplography before *so-*, and the resulting *agen* was read as *ager*. Alternatively, as suggested by Prof. Nisbet *per litteras*, the mark of abbreviation may have been lost, leaving *ages*, which was read as *ager*. As well as retaining the continuity of the subject, *agens* is supported by the pentameter, which elaborates the same point: viz. that the old countryman was abroad before dawn and returned after dusk when his round of work was complete.

I have not examined the early editions, but this proposal is not recorded in the Teubners of Koch (1893) and Hall (1985) or in Platnauer's Loeb (1922; reprint 1963).

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ANTHOLOGIA LATINA 873^c: RENAISSANCE LATIN FROM STRABO
(*GEOGRAPHY* 14.5.9)

As is well known, A. Riese's *Anthologia Latina* (Leipzig, 1894–1906) contains a series of poems that have turned out to be the work of Renaissance humanists.

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Thus Ludwig Bertalot identified nos. 789, 811, 831–847, 851, 854, 855, 855^d, and 856–863 as fifteenth-century Italian epigrams.¹ More recently H. Vredeveld showed that no. 899 came from the pen of the German humanist Helius Eobanus Hessus (1488–1540).² To these epigrams of humanistic origin we can now add R 873^e, culled from Bern MS. 211 saec. XV, fol. 163^v:

Cum te mortalem noris, praesentibus exple
 Deliciis animum. Post mortem nulla voluptas.
 Namque ego sum pulvis, qui nuper tanta tenebam.
 Haec habeo quae edi, quaeque exsaturata libido
 Hausit; at illa iacent multa et praeclara relictæ.
 Hoc sapiens vitae mortalibus est documentum.

These verses are a translation of the (interpolated) epitaph of Sardanapallus that occurs in certain manuscripts of Strabo, *Geography* 14.5.9. Of the seventeen books in Strabo's work, the first ten were translated by Guarinus Veronensis, the remainder by Gregorius Tiphernas. The joint translation, first published at [Rome] in 1469, was reprinted at least five times in the fifteenth century alone. Here is the text as it appears in *Strabo de situ orbis* ([Venice], 24 April 1494), fol. 123 = sig. u3^r:

Quidam dicunt ibi epigramma esse, Assyriis litteris insculptum huiusmodi: "Sardanapalus, Anacindaraxis filius, Anchialem et Tarsum una die condidit. Ede, bibe, lude." Et:

Cum te mortalem noris, presentibus exple
 Deliciis animum. Post mortem nulla voluptas.
 Namque ego sum pulvis, qui nuper tanta tenebam.
 Haec habeo quae edi, quaeque exaturata libido
 Hausit; at illa manent multa et praeclara relictæ.
 Hoc sapiens vitae mortalibus est documentum.

Choerilus horum meminit, atque hi versus circumfecerunt:

Haec habeo quae edi, quaeque exaturata libid
 Hausit; at illa manent multa et praeclara relictæ.

The faulty reading *que exactura* in l. 4 of the Bern manuscript may be ascribed in part to careless copying, in part to an error in the copy text. For at least one early edition of *De situ orbis*—the one published at [Treviso] in 1480, sig. I 2^v—offers *quae exaturata* instead of *quaeque exaturata*. The reading *iacent* for *manent* in l. 5 of the Bern manuscript evidently derives from Cic. *Tusc.* 5.35.101.

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1. L. Bertalot, "Humanistisches in der Anthologia Latina," *Rheinisches Museum für Philologie* 66 (1911): 56–80.

2. H. Vredeveld, "The Authorship of *Anthologia Latina* 899," *CP* 80 (1985): 45–46.