

A NOTE ON CALLIMACHUS, *HYMN* 5. 83

ἐστάκη δ' ἄφθογγος, ἐκόλλασαν γὰρ ἀνίαι

SOME years ago Giangrande acutely suggested¹ that we should read at the beginning of this line ἐστάθη ᾧδ' ἄφθογγος in place of Buttmann's proposal ἐστάκη δ' ἄφθογγος accepted by Pfeiffer. Giangrande's emendation received upport from Meillier, who wrote:² 'Giangrande . . . a trouvé de bonnes raisons pour conserver ἐστάθη . . . et propose ἐστάθη ᾧδ' ἄφθογγος.' No one seems to have realized that there is a metrical difficulty involved in Buttmann's emendation—an ironic fact, as his original intention was, of course, to restore the metre of the line. According to Buttmann's text, the first five feet of the line, in terms of dactyls and spondees, emerge as S S D S D. Callimachus does not seem to use this formation either in the elegiac metre of this hymn or in his *Epigrams*.³ The figures given by Beneke, based on Schneider's text, need correction in that there is only one example of an S S D S D line in the *Epigrams* of Callimachus (51. 3), not two. Beneke's second example (55. 3 = 54. 3 Pf.) is an unlikely restoration of a defective line (v. edd. ad loc.). So there is only one occurrence of the metrical feature in question in the *Epigrams*. There is considerable doubt, however, whether the line 51. 3 represents an original phrase of Callimachus. The words ἀρίζηλος Βερενίκα found there occur at Theocritus 17. 57, in the same *sedes*, which certainly suggests that one poet is echoing the other. That the phrase was used earlier by Theocritus seems likely, for the *usus auctoris* shows that elsewhere in the elegiacs of Callimachus a monosyllable always precedes a four-syllable word υ υ -- ending the hexameter.⁴ It only remains to add that Theocritus' hexameters provide several examples of the form S S D S D, as indeed do the stichic hexameters of Callimachus.⁵

That such hexameters occur in the *Aitia*⁶ is of no consequence. Callimachus clearly regarded the distichs of the *Aitia* as bound by less strict metrical rules than the distichs of the *Epigrams* and *Hymn* 5, as his employment of σπονδειάζοντες indicates. From all the above it follows that Giangrande's restoration is the more convincing as it is the first to be metrically acceptable.⁷

Birkbeck College, University of London

G. R. McLENNAN

¹ CQ N.S. xii (1962), 212.

² Rev. Et. Gr. lxxviii (1965), 320 note 10.

³ See Beneke, *De Arte Metrica Callimachi* (Diss. Strasbourg, 1880), 16.

⁴ First observed by Kaibel, *Comm. in hon. Th. Mommsen*, 328, and mentioned by Gow-Page, *Hellenistic Epigrams* (Cambridge, 1965), ii. 172.

⁵ See Beneke, op. cit. 16.

⁶ See frs. 43. 48 and 75. 28.

⁷ The suggestions collected in Schneider's

apparatus suffer from the defect just discussed; Schneider's own emendation cannot stand, since Callimachus allows hiatus only between a *longum* and a disyllabic *biceps* (Maas, *Greek Metre*, § 141). I need hardly point out that there are certainly examples of metrical *unica* in the *Hymns* of Callimachus, which are attested in the MSS. and are not the result of emendations by modern scholars.