

compared to a *λάρος* in *Od.* 5. 51. He adds, 'Apollon faucon ne m'est pas connu' and cites *Od.* 15. 525 f. where a falcon is Apollo's messenger (this time the word used is *κίρκος*) and Aristophanes, *Birds* 516 where Apollo has a *ἰέραξ* on his head. In fact Apollo is compared to an *ἵρηξ* (the Homeric form of this word) in *Il.* 15. 237–8.⁵

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⁵ cf. the quotation of these lines by Aelian, *NA* 10. 14.

SYMPHOSIUS 42. 1: A LITERAL INTERPRETATION

Beta

tota vocor Graece, sed non sum tota Latine

'...as the name of the second letter of the alphabet *beta* (Greek) is curtailed to *be*. This could be expressed by substituting *quod* for *sed*: "What I am in Latin when incomplete (*non tota*), I am called in Greek complete.'" So most recently Shackleton Bailey.¹ Read rather the verse aloud to solve the riddle. *tota* heard as Greek would be *τωτα*, i.e. *τῶ τα* (*τῶ* being written *τῷ* at this period):

My name is whole (with a TA) in Greek, but I am not whole (with a TA) in Latin.

The strained use of the instrumental dative *τῶ τα* would be objectionable, were the poet writing continuous Greek as such.² But as a pun concealed within the Latin word *tota*, this secondary meaning and construction should be tolerated.³ The conceit is in fact rather clever. What are the chances of *tota* admitting so apt a sense, when heard as Greek, as a result of coincidence alone and not design?

¹ D. R. Shackleton Bailey, *Towards a Text of 'Anthologia Latina'*. Cambridge Philological Society supplementary volume no. 5 (Cambridge, 1979), p. 39.

² The use of the definite article here, *τὸ τα* = 'a TA', is of course standard usage in the technical Greek of the grammarians.

³ For a comparable pun involving Greek concealed in Latin see Martial 1. 50: *Si tibi Mistyllus cocus, Aemiliane, vocatur, | dicatur quare non Taratalla mihi?* The poet is playing with the Homeric formula *μίστυλλον τ' ἄρα τᾶλλα* (*Il.* 1. 465, al.). So too in Greek, with a play on a Latin word, *AP* 10. 44. 4 (Palladas): *οὐκ ἐθέλω Δόμινε, οὐ γὰρ ἔχω δόμεναι*.

ANTHOLOGIA LATINA 24 RIESE

Amans amanti

Marcent post rorem violae, rosa perdit odorem,
Lilia post verum posito candore liquescunt (24. 3–4).

post rorem, 'after the dew', seems nonsense and Shackleton Bailey¹ has not unreasonably proposed *post florem*, comparing for the idiom Columella *RR* 2. 11. 10 *diebus quadraginta, quibus post florem ad maturitatem devenit*. But *ros* here stands for *ros marinus*, 'rosemary', as in Vergil, *Georg.* 2. 212–13:

nam ieiuna quidem clivosi glareae ruris
vix humilis apibus casias roremque ministrat.

The poet is not presenting us with a piece of botanical information about the relative

¹ D. R. Shackleton Bailey, *Towards a Text of 'Anthologia Latina'*. Cambridge Philological Society supplementary volume no. 5 (Cambridge, 1979), p. 12.