

Pacuvius, qui Syriam usu suam fecit, cum vino et illis funebribus epulis sibi parentaverat, sic in cubiculum ferebatur a cena, ut inter plausus exoletorum hoc ad symphoniam caneretur: *βεβιωται, βεβιωται*. nullo non se die extulit. (Epp. 12.8)

Tacitus registers him as legate of the Syrian legion VI Ferrata in A.D. 19 (Ann. 2.79.2). He probably governed the province *de facto* for long years in the absence of the official legate Aelius Lamia (Ann. 6.17.2).¹⁷ At all events, he was likely to have been an ex-praetor if still alive in January 41, and was a likely enough person to have had the exchange with Cluvius.

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¹⁷ R. Syme, ZPE 41 (1981), 130 = Roman Papers 3 (1984), 1380; PIR² P 46.

SIX NOTES ON THE TEXT OF SENECA, NATVRALES QVAESTIONES

The most recent and by far the best edition of this work is that of H. M. Hine (Stuttgart/Leipzig, 1996), to which I refer for full bibliographical information. Many passages of the text are most helpfully discussed in the same scholar's *Studies in the Text of Seneca's Naturales Quaestiones* (Stuttgart/Leipzig, 1996).

ut nubes infici possint, . . . sol ad hoc apte ponendus est; non enim idem facit undecumque effulsit, et ad hoc opus est radiorum idoneus *ictus*. (1.5.9)

Seneca is dealing with rainbows. Hine (*Studies*, 24–5) shares Axelson's suspicion of *ictus*, but is unhappy both with Axelson's *situs* ('seems too static a word for the sun's rays') and with my *tractus*, 'direction' ('in this sense seems to be used only of concrete physical objects'); very tentatively he suggests *angulus*. Much more credible palaeographically and still yielding good sense and a good clausula would be *i<mp>etus*, a noun which is very common in this work of Seneca's.

Hostius fuit Quadra obscenitatis in *scaenam* usque perductae. (1.16.1)

Hine (*Studies*, 31–2) defends *scaenam*, in my view unsuccessfully; I am not convinced by 'obscenity carried right to the point of publicity', that is, brought right into the open rather than kept private and little known. In my view *scaenam* is due to perseveration from *obsценitatis* and has displaced another noun, probably one which bore some resemblance to it. I suggest *summam*; for *in* (or *ad*) *summam* (or *summum*) *perducere* TLL 10.1.1287.63ff. adduces Cicero, *Brut.* 161 *iam ad summum paene esse perductam* (sc. *artem dicendi*); id., *Leg.* 1.25 *perfecta et ad summum perducta natura*; Seneca, *Epp.* 90.46 (*animo*) *edocto et ad summum assidua exercitatione perducto*; Quintilian, *Inst.* 12.11.28 *perductae in summum artes*; ibid. 10.7.18 (*facilitatem*) *a parvis initiis paulatim perducemus ad summam*; add Seneca, *Dial.* 2.5.4 (*uirtus*) *in summum perducta*. 'Obscenity carried right to extremes' is an apt headline to introduce the account of the outrageous sexual shenanigans that occupies the rest of the chapter.

[t]alia uarie †fortitudine† disponit: mors omnes aequae uocat, iratis dis propitiisque moriendum est. (2.59.4)

uarie *Pincianus*: uaria *codd.*

The first letter of *talia* is a dittography of the last letter of the preceding word *euincit* (exactly the same mistake has occurred at 4a.pr.10 after *potest*); *alia*, contrasting with the following *mors*, is certain. Equally certain, I think, is the adverb *uarie*. The only doubtful point in the sentence is the noun which is the subject of *disponit*; both *fors* and *fortuna*, with or without additions, have been proposed, but the best conjecture, I think, is one that is not recorded by Hine, *Fors Fortuna*. This was proposed by C. Brakman in *Mnem* 56 (1928), 147 (although he retained *uaria*); it derives support from *Dial.* 10.7.9 *de cetero Fors Fortuna ut uolet ordinet: uita iam in tuto est*, 'let Fortune arrange the future as she pleases: one's past life is safely out of her control'.

aut stant omnes aquae aut eunt; aut colliguntur aut *uarias* habent uenas. (3.3 [= 3.2.1])

'*Varias habent uenas* seems a strange expression; perhaps the adjective should be *natiuas* or *suas* . . ., picked up below by *ex suo fonte natiua est*.' So M. Winterbottom, *Script. Class. Israel* 17 (1998), 243. I think that a more satisfactory adjective, both palaeographically and in point of sense, would be *uiuas* in *OLD* sense 6, 'constantly or freshly flowing (from a spring)'; cf. *uiuis fontibus* at Ovid, *Met.* 3.27 and *Fast.* 2.250; this would be equally appropriately picked up by *ex suo fonte natiua est*. At 3.7.3 below the same contrast is thus expressed: *illic non caelestem esse nec collecticum umorem sed, quod dici solet, uiuam aquam*.

sed quemadmodum campos intuentem quae paulatim deuexa sunt fallunt, sic cum * * * non intellegimus curuaturas maris et uidetur planum quidquid apparet. (3.28.5)

It is usual just to delete *cum*, but I think that a small lacuna is more probable. What we miss is a verb that will correspond to *intuentem* in the first limb of the comparison; *prospicimus* (a verb that occurs above at 27.11) would do very well.

Ephorus . . . saepe decipitur, saepius decipit; sicut *hunc* cometen, qui omnium mortalium oculis custoditus est quia ingentis rei traxit euentum cum Helicen et Buram ortu suo mererit, ait *illum* discessisse in duas stellas: quod praeter illum (sc. Ephorum) nemo tradidit. (7.16.2)

If *illum* (after *ait*) is sound, it is a repetition of the preceding *hunc*. This has aroused suspicion (Kroll's unattractive conjecture *ilico* has been adopted by both Gercke and Oltramare), but has been defended by Axelson and accepted by Hine. Axelson produces (from Leumann and Hofmann⁵ 477 = Hofmann and Szantyr 185) one example (Plautus, *Trin.* 326) of *ille* picking up a preceding *hic*; the normal demonstrative that performs this function is *is*. After (for good reasons) rejecting *ilico*, Axelson says: 'mit der Möglichkeit irgend einer anderen Verbesserung ist aber schwerlich zu rechnen—welches passende Wort könnte hier eintreten?' I suggest <f>*issum*, the first letter of which may have been lost after the last letter of *ait* (and anticipation of the following *illum* may have played a part in the corruption). I adduce 6.25.2 *fissam unius magnitudinem montis in duas partes*.