

THEODORIDAS *ANTH. PAL.* 7.738 (= 3554 GOW-PAGE)

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Κληῖδες πόντου σε καὶ ἐσχατιαὶ Σαλαμῖνος,
 Τίμαρχ', ὕβριστής τ' ὄλεσε Λῖψ ἄνεμος
 νηὶ τε σὺν φόρτῳ τε, κόνιν δέ σου ἀμφιμέλαιναν
 δέξαντ' οἰζυροί, σχέτλιε, κηδεμόνες.

IT IS ALWAYS A USEFUL PRINCIPLE that two problems are better than one. Here, as Gow and Page have pointed out,¹ both σου and ἀμφιμέλαιναν are odd. The former is otiose² and the latter is used only by Homer and only of φρένες.³ Both irregularities can be eliminated if we write σοῦ ἀντὶ μέλαιναν.⁴ For the postposition of ἀντί, cf. Homer *Il.* 8.163, 13.447, 14.471, 23.650, 24.254; Hes. *Th.* 893; *Ilias parva* F 6.4 (Davies); Aesch. *Ag.* 1277; *CEG* 2 no. 822.2 (Hansen); *Anth. Pal.* 7.715.4 (Leonidas of Tarentum); Lycoph. 94, 365. For the sentiment, compare Aesch. *Ag.* 442–443 ἀν|τήνορος σποδοῦ and 434–436 ἀντὶ δὲ φωτῶν | τεύχη καὶ σποδὸς εἰς ἐκά|στου δόμους ἀφικνεῖται, and *Anth. Pal.* 7.467.7–8 (Antipater of Sidon) ἀντὶ δὲ σεῖο στάλα καὶ κωφὰ λείπεται ἄμμι κόνις. The sentiment is particularly appropriate in connection with the businessman (cf. νηὶ τε σὺν φόρτῳ τε) Timarchus.

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¹A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page, *The Greek Anthology: Hellenistic Epigrams* (Cambridge 1965), note on line 3556.

²It is not clear to me what point W. R. Paton (*Greek Anthology* 2 [Cambridge, Mass. 1970] 393) is trying to make in his Loeb translation ("thy mourning kinsmen received but the black ashes of thee, ill-fated man" [my italics]).

³For the word, see in particular G. J. M. Bartelink in B. Snell et al. (eds.), *Lexikon des frühgriechischen Epos* (Göttingen 1955) s.v. W. Seelbach, *Die Epigramme des Mnasalkes von Sikyon und des Theodoridas von Syrakus* (Wiesbaden 1964, *Klassisch-Philologische Studien* 28) 108 refers to *Anth. Pal.* 7.10.3 (anon.), but there we must read ἀμφὶ μελαίνῃ *divisim* (as Seelbach himself seems to recognize).

⁴Gow (above, n. 1) had already suggested that "perhaps we should consider whether Th. did not mean σοῦ ἀμφὶ οἰζυροί." But the meaning would be quite obscured by the order of the words.