

Listas v. n. 4

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Hermeneumata Celtic 20

ZEITSCHRIFT
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PAPYROLOGIE UND EPIGRAPHIK

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cit. Herm. Celt. en
ZPE ...



Herm. Celt.

- + Diomisoiti, A.C., JRS 92, 1982, p. 97 (antes Gloss. ... D., ya despojado)
- + PHarrauer 62
- + PParamone 5
- + Gatti, P., ALMA 64, 2006, p. 105



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NEW EVIDENCE ON THE MEANING OF ΡΩΜΑΙΣΤΗΣ IN IG XI.2 133:
'ACTOR OF LATIN COMEDIES'?

Only two instances of ῥωμαϊστής 'actor of Latin comedies' are registered in LSJ and its latest *Supplement*. Both are in inscriptions, and in fact from very different periods and locations, since the first is from Delos (IG XI.2 133, II cent. BC), and the second from Philae (326 = SEG 31.1535, I cent. AD). The first to suggest the meaning 'actor speaking in Latin' was A. Wilhelm,¹ and indeed the context in which the Delos inscription was found, a list of artists who offered free performances in honour of Apollo, made the suggestion attractive to later scholars, including Durrbach, the IG editor, who took the word to indicate a 'histrion qui sermone Latino scurrilitates pronuntiat'.² More recently, L. Robert drew attention to two further occurrences of the word, at Delos again, 2618 d 8, and in a Cretan coin legend.³ Robert suggested however that the word must mean simply 'mime', and that the meaning came from an association of the ethnic 'Roman' with the typically Southern Italian extempore shows.

It has so far escaped notice that the word occurs, alongside several other little known or unparalleled performers' denominations, in the bilingual Latin-Greek glossary in Vienna also known as *Hermeneumata Celtis*, ÖNB, *Supplementum Graecum* 43, studied in detail by A. C. Dionisotti, in *JRS* 1982, but so far unpublished except for the *Colloquium* at ff. 12–18. The MS contains a very considerable part of an ancient book of *Hermeneumata*, used for teaching Latin and Greek to non-native speakers of either language, and the glossary section, organized by subjects, is full of interesting linguistic novelties. The MS folium containing ῥωμαϊστής, 21r, was by chance reproduced as plate XLII in J. Bick, *Die Schreiber der Wiener griechischen Handschriften* (Wien, 1920).⁴ The word comes up in *titulus nonus*, περὶ θεωριῶν, 'on shows'. I have attached below the text of the significant extract, including items immediately before and after ῥωμαϊστής. Individual entries are numbered from the beginning of the chapter or *titulus*, as previous editors of parts of this glossary have done. Spirits and accents have been added, and I have silently introduced minor, mostly orthographical corrections (the Greek spelling is heavily itacistic), without providing an apparatus, since the function of the extract is only to provide evidence in support of my argument.

- 23 plausus κρότος
24 pilarius σφαιριστής
25 prestigiator ψηφοπαίκτης
26 petauristarius ῥοιζοπαίκτης
27 ῥωμαϊστής ἰχυροπαίκτης
28 mirificus | saltator θαυματοποιός | ὄρχηστής⁵

¹ Nachlese zu griechischen Inschriften, *Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archäologischen Instituts in Wien* 3 (1900), 40–61, esp. 49–50.

² See also G. M. Sifakis, *Studies in the History of Hellenistic Drama* (London, 1967), 20.

³ *Bulletin Epigraphique* 1983, n. 475, pp. 182–4, with references.

⁴ For an edition of the *Colloquium* and detailed information about what is known of the discovery of the MS by the German Humanist Conrad Celtis see A. C. Dionisotti, From Ausonius' schooldays? A school-book and its relatives, *JRS* 72 (1982), 83–125. Partial editions of the glossary are: J. Kramer, Die Ämterliste aus dem Wiener Celtis-Glossar, in B. Palme (ed.), *Wiener Papyri, als Festgabe zum 60. Geburtstag von Hermann Harrauer* (Wien, 2001), 249–65; J. Kramer, Lateinisch-Griechisches Glossar: Celtis' Abschrift aus einem Papyruskodex, in J. M. S. Cowey and B. Kramer (eds.), *Paramone. Editionen und Aufsätze von Mitgliedern des Heidelberger Instituts für Papyrologie zwischen 1982 und 2004* (Leipzig, 2004), 43–62; P. Gatti, Nomi di pesci negli *Hermeneumata Celtis*, *ALMA* 64 (2006), 105–21.

⁵ Celtis inserted two vertical bars as if to mark a break between the first and the second term in each half of the column. Two equally plausible interpretations come to mind: 1) all words were part of the same line in the *exemplar*, but Celtis after copying realized that the words of each couple were in fact separate entries; 2) Celtis wrote on the same line terms which were separate entries in the *exemplar*, and realized his mistake only later.

Gloss. ... D.
PHarrauer

P Paramone

29 pantomimus⁶ ἐμφανιστής,⁷ ὀρχηστής
30 ludiones ατυριεταί

It is unfortunate that only for the rare ῥωμαιστής (written in fact with a Latin script initial: “Ρωμαιστη”) no Latin translation has been provided. I believe in fact that the reason for this is not that there was no Latin term available, or that it was lost in the course of the transmission, but that all three Greek glosses at 26–7 are meant to be definitions of *petauristarius* (‘artist performing from a trapeze’, or ‘diver’). This kind of lay-out, in which the Greek takes over the Latin half-column, is in fact relatively frequent in this glossary. As can be seen from the list of examples provided below, this lay-out was also in Celtis’ own *exemplar*, and it is mainly associated with cases in which too many Greek translations were provided for a single Latin entry and there was not enough space in the Greek half-column. The Greek terms need not always be synonyms, as sometimes different subsenses of the Latin are clearly taken into account. (The vertical bars mark line-breaks in the MS.)

- (30r) *tit.* 14.11–2 inaurator χρυσογράφος | ἐγχρυσώτης,⁸ χρυσοχόος
(30v) *tit.* 14.33–4 lapidarius λατόμος | λάτυπος, λιθουργός
(31r) *tit.* 15.44–5 pontifex ιερομνήμων | ἀρχιερεύς, πρύτανις
(33r) *tit.* 18.173–4⁹ <h>arena ἀμφιθέατρον | ἀμφίκαμπτος,¹⁰ ἄμμος
tit. 18.269–70 deuersorium πανδοκεύς¹¹ | πανδοκείον, καταγώγιον
(34r) *tit.* 18.375–6 tractus¹² κλίμα | ἔλκυσμα †διωκησις
tit. 20.19–20 g<r>allator *κωλοβαθρία¹³ | ἰχυροπαίκτης, θαναματοποιός
(36v) *tit.* 27.38–9 acetaria ὄξυβάφια | ὄξηρά, ὄξυγαριετάρια
(37v) *tit.* 31.43–4 uestis ἔνδυμα | ἔσθησις, ἱματισμός

There are also, however, cases in which the Latin has simply gone missing,¹⁴ so perhaps the safest course would be to suggest that ῥωμαιστής and ἰχυροπαίκτης (‘one who performs feats of strength for entertainment’, *LSJ Suppl.*) are the two equivalent terms, leaving *petauristarius* out of consideration. However, *petauristarius* occurs again at *tit.* 14.76 = ἰχυροπαίκτης, whereas ἰχυροπαίκτης turns up as a gloss for *contopecta* at 9.57 and 14.81, itself a word unknown to *TLL*, but clearly a calque of κοντοπαίκτης (*LSJ* ‘actor who balanced a pole on his head’),¹⁵ and at 20.19–20 for *grallator*, ‘one who walks on stilts’.¹⁶

⁶ παντομμυς MS. I take this as a possible clue that the exemplar was in a kind of majuscule or uncial script, also on the Latin side, thus likely to be mistaken for Greek sometimes.

⁷ Apparently not an appropriate translation (*LSJ* ‘informer’).

⁸ In *LSJ* only χρυσωτής for ‘gilder’; ἐγχρυσώω ‘to gild’ is in Tzetzes.

⁹ In fact, all items numbered 18 in this list must have belonged in origin to *titulus decimus nonus* which was missing in Celtis’ exemplar, but this is not the place to discuss the original pagination of the MS.

¹⁰ Not in *LSJ*, *TLG*, *LBG* (= *Lexikon der Byzantinischen Gräzität*). The accent is conjectural.

¹¹ Only ‘innkeeper’ in *LSJ*.

¹² The two Greek terms suggest that in fact two different lexical Latin entries are here being explained, i. e. *tractus* meaning ‘slope, inclination’ (the *titulus* includes words for urban locations: streets, alleys, squares and so on), and *tractum* ‘spun wool’. I have found up to now no satisfactory explanation for the third term. Perhaps διέλλκωσις, only in Theophilus Protospatharius, *De excrementis*, 11.2 (9th cent.), meaning ‘ulcerating process’. Of other possible emendations, *διέλλκωσις are reconcilable with the MS evidence but are not attested.

¹³ Only κωλοβαθριετής in *TLG*, *LSJ*, for ‘one who goes on stilts’.

¹⁴ As at 14.18–9 argentarius αργυροκόπος | χαλκοποιός, χαλκεύς, χαλκουργός, where clearly *aerarius* is missing.

¹⁵ κοντοπαίκτης = *perticarius* at 9.40, also unknown to *TLL* with this meaning.

¹⁶ To add to the problems, the first *interpretamentum* offered by the glossary for *petauristarius*, ῥοιζοπαίκτης, is also unparalleled so far in Greek lexis. Since ῥοιζός is a word describing a whizzing sound or motion, and ῥοιζειν can mean ‘to rush, swing’ (*LSJ*, s.v. II), ῥοιζοπαίκτης might be imagined to describe, somewhat hyperbolically, the performance of an acrobat ‘who shoots through the air’, or ‘swings’ on a trapeze.

Although the exact nature of the acrobatics of *ἰχυροπαίκτης* remains undecidable, it is clear that *ῥωμαϊστής* was understood by the compilers of this glossary to be an athlete, rather than an actor. In view of the etymology of *ἰχυροπαίκτης*, *ῥώμη* 'force' seems to have been the linking element, though no other derivatives of *ῥώμη* are known except *ῥωμαλέος*: the process of word-formation may have been influenced by *παλαιστής* 'wrestler', from *πάλη* 'wrestle, fight'. But the "actor of Latin comedies" solution seems no longer tenable.¹⁷

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Brugnoli - Buonocore: *Reseñas*: GIF 55 (2003) 160-161; RCCM 46 (2004) 350-355; Arctos 39 (2005) 236 Solin; BZ 97 (2004) 196-197; Latomus 65 (2006) 174-176; FIL 71
 Flammini: Arctos 39 (2005) 236-237 Solin; BZ 98 (2005) 585-590 Rochette; AC 75 (2006) 403-405 Rochette; Scriptorium 61 (2007) 58*-59*
 → BMCR
 (NO)
 FIL 66
 FIL 68
 FIL 65
 FIL 67

¹⁷ I must thank Pierpaolo Campana for encouraging me to follow up the connection with *ῥώμη* 'force' rather than the 'Latin speaking' interpretation.