

Hence some of the basis for his work was already done. We should remember that in the early fifth century the basis of the economy of most *poleis* was agricultural, and the relationship between the amount of arable land possessed by a city (and its fertility) and the city's revenues was intimate. The exceptions to this rule must have been few. Artaphrenes' survey, if it was similar to other assessments made by Darius' officials, took into consideration both the amount of land and its fertility, and as such would serve Aristides as a basis for measuring not merely the territory a city possessed, but also its revenues. Thus it is not necessary to think that Aristides could not have completed his assignment within one archon year, even if he carried it out as thoroughly as Plutarch implies.

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O REM RIDICULAM!

Housman, and Kroll before him, may have been mistaken in their interpretation of *trusantem* in Catullus 56, for which Kroll adduced Martial 11. 46. 3 "truditur et digitis pannucea mentula lassis"; but their error, if it was one, will hardly have been due to innocence. Has Mr. Rockwell (*CP* 70 [1975]: 214) bethought himself of Baehrens' note? "Vocem alibi non lectam 'trusare' uolunt esse aut 'fortiter trudere' aut 'trudere conari,' obscene accipientes instar graeci *ωστίζεσθαι* . . . sed neque hoc intrudendi uerbum omnino extitit in sermone latino neque uero 'trudere' umquam sensum habet obscenum (quae res summi est momenti) neque denique qua ratione hoc uerbum possit regere datium ullo modo apparet." The last objection might be met by reading *puellam*. But there is much to be said for the old conjecture *crissantem*, improved by Baehrens to *crusantem*. Only his exposition of the word and the situation is not entirely satisfactory. Logic rather suggests that the object of Catullus' intervention (if *crusantem* is right) should be, not the boy, but his playmate. Thus:

deprendi modo pupulum puellae
crusantem; hanc ego, si placet Dionae,
protelo rigida mea cecidi.

Dionae (= *Veneri*) fits the context well enough, but *Dianae* (Westphal) would fit considerably better, both as patroness of virginity, with her *puellae et pueri integri*, and as the subject of Valerius Cato's well-known poem. As Mr. Rockwell says, *protelo* is certainly one word. Housman was not the first to see that, though he probably was the first to explain it on the right lines.¹

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1. The matter has also been the subject of some recent discussion by D. Fehling, "Gegen die neueste Äusserung zu Cat. 56," *Hermes* 102 (1974): 376.