

Penthiacum: a culinary Term in Petronius

By B. BALDWIN, Calgary (Canada)

At *Satyricon* 47.10, Trimalchio proclaims: *Quem ex eis* (sc. *porcis*) *vultis in cenam statim fieri? gallum enim gallinaceum penthiacum et eiusmodi nenias rustici faciunt: mei coci etiam vitulos aeno coctos solent facere.*

The word *penthiacum* occurs nowhere else in extant Latin literature. It is not registered by Lewis & Short, and was neglected by the older dictionaries of Stephanus and Forcellini; the present note may help to ensure its presence in the future relevant volumes of the *TLL* and *Oxford Latin Dictionary*.

Reinesius conjectured *phasiacum*, needlessly. Friedländer and Bücheler both saw the dish as inspired by the dismemberment of Pentheus in the *Bacchae*. This seems plausible enough, although the most recent editor¹) of the *Cena* is hesitant about the etymology. The aforementioned German scholars both adduce the line *est Bromio Pentheus, est et mihi de bove Pentheus* from that late confection, the *Iudicium coci et pistoris* (Reise, *Anth. Lat.* 1.99.77). This is pertinent, and may suggest Petronian influence.

Penthiacum would appear to be a fricassee, for which the technical term in Apicius is *minutal*. It is notable that a number of recipes for this dish in the *De re coquinaria* are named for various Romans (see, e.g., 4.3.2–4). Possibly Petronius was parodying this form of gourmet's vanity.

It can be here subjoined that Trimalchio's distinction between rustic and sophisticated fare is well contrived. The *gallus gallinaceus* smacks of unrefined living: there are no recipes for any sort of *gallus* in Apicius. On the other hand, *vitulos aeno coctos* in a boast inspired by the advent of pigs brings recollection of the Apician dish *porcellum aenococtum*²) (8.7.11).

Apart from his obvious desire to supply Trimalchio with a colourful crudity, Petronius may have been inspired to his creation by two further artistic reasons. According to Athenaeus (*Deip.* 8.362e), the Dionysiac noun *θίασος* was synonymous with *ἔρνος*, denoting a banquet got together by the mutual love and contributions of

¹) M. S. Smith (Oxford, 1975), 128. The revised Loeb edition of E. H. Warmington also makes the Pentheus connection.

²) Which justifies the retention of the traditional reading *aeno coctos* in the present passage against Smith's *oeno coctos*.

all the guests. That would be a grimly effective joke in the context of Pentheus. Athenaeus indeed may have been aware of this possibility, for in his very next sentence a line from the *Bacchae* is, in fact, quoted. Given that Pentheus was slaughtered in the country, a dish named for him is appropriate to the *rustici* disparaged by Trimalchio.

Secondly, Trimalchio makes his comments as an immediate follow-up to the last of the series of monologues by his guests. It is striking that the speaker thus postluded by the host is Echion—which name was of course borne in Greek mythology by the father of Pentheus!

Epitrochasmus

Von RICHARD GREGOR BÖHM, Freiburg im Breisgau

In einem kleinen Traktat über die Figurenlehre, den zuerst Friedrich August Eckstein (*Anecdota Parisina Rhetorica*, Programm Halle 1852) und kurz darauf Karl Halm (*Rhetores Latini Minores*, 1863, Ziffer V) unter dem überlieferten Titel *Schemata dianoeas quae ad rhetores pertinent* aus der Pariser Handschrift BN Lat. 7530 veröffentlicht hatte, heißt es dazu:

epitrochasmus est contram orationis figura, quoniam breviter et subcincte ea quae sunt dicenda perstringit.

Da dieser Text offenbar korrupt ist, versuchte schon Eckstein, ihn zu verbessern und nach unseren Begriffen eher nur lesbar zu machen, denn er las:

epitrochasmus est contraria orationis figura, quoniam . . .

In einem Beitrag unter dem Titel *Textkritisches zu lat. Figurenlehren (Anecdoton Parisinum, Cassiodor, Quintilian)*, der in dieser Zeitschrift (*Glotta* 52, 1974, 95–114) erschienen ist, ficht nun seinerseits Ulrich Schindel diese Korrektur an und schlug vor, zu lesen:

epitrochasmus est dicti oratio, figura quae breviter . . .

Daraufhin meldete sich, ebenfalls in dieser Zeitschrift (*Glotta* 53, 1975, 297) M. Winterbottom zu Wort, und er schlägt vor, „less violently“ aber immerhin zu lesen:

epitrochasmus est contraria iterationi figura, quoniam . . .