

THE *TRYPHĒ* OF THE SYBARITES:
A HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PROBLEM IN ATHENAEUS*

Abstract: A large number of the most informative fragments of the Hellenistic Greek historians are transmitted by Athenaeus. Unlike the frequently jejune evidence provided by scholiasts, lexicographers and the like, these texts allow us to draw historiographical conclusions about lost writers: on this basis, scholars have posited, for example, the place of a given author in the Hellenistic ‘schools’ of history. The importance of Athenaeus as a source for history-writing between Xenophon and Diodorus calls for detailed study of the *Deipnosophist*’s method of citing these lost authors. The present article focuses on Athenaeus’ testimony concerning the downfall of Archaic Sybaris through luxury and excess in order to show that certain phrases, sentence patterns and even trains of thought can be reliably identified as belonging to Athenaeus rather than the cited authority. This discovery entails surprising results: traditions ascribing the destruction of Sybaris to morally corrosive luxury are late and of little historical value. More generally, the debilitating effects of luxury cannot serve as an *exemplum* supporting the claim that Hellenistic writers tended to explain historical events through moral causes; apparent evidence for this causal nexus is better assigned to Athenaeus than to the historians he names. In view of these conclusions, a cautious reassessment of all Athenaeus’ testimony on fragmentary historians is appropriate.

THE *Deipnosophistae* of Athenaeus of Naucratis is one of the most important sources for our knowledge of the Hellenistic historians. Accordingly, the clearest possible understanding of Athenaeus’ handling of prose fragments is of great significance to the effort of reconstructing Greek historiography between Xenophon and Diodorus. Important work has been done in recent years on this topic,¹ but much remains to be learned. In particular, progress can be made through an examination of the concept of *τρυφή*. *Τρυφή* or ‘luxury’ is a particularly apt focus for a study of Athenaeus and the historians of the fourth through the first centuries: the concern of these writers for *τρυφή* is often adduced to demonstrate their interest in the idea of moral causation.² For his part, Athenaeus is deeply interested in the moral ramifications of *τρυφή*, and his dialogue is our most abundant source in this regard. However, elements in Athenaeus that are commonly regarded as stemming from earlier authors are often identifiable, with some degree of certainty, as having been added subsequently.

In order to keep our presentation within reasonable bounds, we shall limit ourselves to a case study. Sybaris, the Achaean colony on the south coast of Italy, is the most notorious example of an Archaic city whose luxurious living brought it to ruin. Scholars have seen in the traditions on the fall of Sybaris perhaps the earliest manifestation of the theory of historical causation according to which unusual prosperity sets in motion a kind of chain reaction of decadence: from *πλοῦτος* (‘wealth’) to *τρυφή* to *κόρος* (‘surfeit’) to *ὑβρις* (‘insulting arrogance’) to *ἀπώλεια* (‘destruction’).³ This theory is believed to underlie the most important historical traditions on Sybaris. Briefly put, Sybaris was said to have become a city of great wealth and luxury which, eventually

* We wish to dedicate this article to the memory of A. John Graham, who taught us to read fragments.

¹ Ambaglio (1990), Pelling (2000), and Zecchini (1989).

² A. Passerini (1934) 37 is insistent that the concept of *τρυφή* leading to the destruction of the state has ‘una importanza sovrachiante’ for Hellenistic historiography. Brown (1958) 4 notes that Timaeus especially favoured *τρυφή* among moral causes. More recent scholars argue in the same vein: G. de Sensi Sestito (1988) 405, relying to a large degree on the Sybaris evidence of Athenaeus, claims that Timaeus, following the lead of earlier historians, made a quasi-systematic use of ‘il motivo della *tryphe*

come chiave di interpretazione storica’. She makes the series luxury–*hybris*–destruction Timaeus’ particular scheme for understanding events at Sybaris (p. 406). R. Vattuone (1991) 323–33 puts Athenaeus’ evidence on Sybarite *τρυφή* at the centre of his discussion of historical causation. M. Flower (1994) 166 finds in the same passages proof for the direct influence of Theopompus on Timaeus *vis-à-vis* *τρυφή*.

³ It is necessary to make a distinction between this theory, which holds that *τρυφή* leads to acts of *ὑβρις* which in turn justify divine punishment, and an alternative belief that is also present in some sources: *τρυφή* enervates the wealthy until they fall like over-ripe fruit.

forgetting itself, gave bloody offence both to the gods and to its neighbours. Its subsequent defeat and sack at the hands of Croton was an act of divine, as well as human, retribution.⁴

The τρυφή of the Sybarites is a favourite paradigm for Athenaeus. He preserves fragments on this topic from seven prose authors: Aristotle, Theophrastus, Heracleides Ponticus, Chamaeleon, Timaeus, Phylarchus and Polybius. Interpreting prose fragments is a notoriously tricky business, since it is often very difficult to decide what is to be attributed to the original author and what to the transmitting source(s). Before examining the individual fragments, it will be beneficial to make some general observations on Athenaeus' practice in this regard.

1. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

In a recent study, Christopher Pelling has ably set out some of the chief perils that await anyone who wishes to make an argument using historical fragments reported by Athenaeus. Most important from our perspective is Pelling's demonstration of how Athenaeus can move from his principal authority for a given topic to other sources and then back again, all without any indication:

Athenaeus can often use a dominant, named figure only as a framework and can hang independent material on that frame: he can quote Posidonius or Theopompus, drift away and drift back again. ... All too often we fall in to the trap of assuming that the independent material belongs to the dominant framework-figure as well.⁵

Among the illustrations Pelling gives for this procedure is the case of Smindyrides of Sybaris, whom Athenaeus advances in Book 12 as an example of τρυφή:

περὶ δὲ Σμινδυρίδου τοῦ Συβαρίτου καὶ τῆς τούτου τρυφῆς ἰστορήσεν Ἡρόδοτος ἐν τῇ ἕκτῃ, ὡς ἀποπλέων ἐπὶ τὴν μνηστειάν τῆς Κλεισθένους τοῦ Σικυωνίων τυράννου θυγατρὸς Ἀγαρίστης, φησὶν, ἀπὸ μὲν Ἰταλίας <ἤλθε> Σμινδυρίδης ὁ Ἱπποκράτους Συβαρίτης, ὃς ἐπὶ πλεῖστον δὴ χλιδῆς εἶς ἀνὴρ ἀφίκετο. εἶποντο γοῦν αὐτῷ χίλιοι μάγειροι καὶ ὀρνιθευταί. ἰστορεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ Τίμαιος ἐν τῇ ἑβδόμῃ. (12.541b-c)

About Smindyrides of Sybaris and his luxury Herodotus tells the story in his sixth book of how he sailed to the wooing of Agariste, the daughter of Cleisthenes the tyrant of Sicyon. He says 'the Sybarite Smindyrides the son of Hippocrates came from Italy; he had reached the furthest extent of luxury'. Certainly one thousand cooks and fowlers accompanied him. Timaeus too wrote about him in his seventh book.

As Pelling points out, 'if we did not have Herodotus, the sentence about cooks and fowlers would surely have been taken as a Herodotus fragment'.⁶ Nor should we take the 'fowler sentence' as coming from Timaeus, as is generally done (*FGrHist* 566 F 9). Athenaeus has the same material in Book 6. Here again he does not indicate that he is directly quoting from a source.⁷ The fowler

⁴ Bernhardt (2003) 57 and C. Ampolo (1993) 217-22 present the clearest exposition of this view. Ampolo finds the concept of ὑβρις and the belief that Sybaris was 'la polis dell'eccesso' to be the common root of a wide range of explanations for the destruction of the city. He attributes (222, 253-4) the origins of the ὑβρις-stories 'ai nemici dei Sibariti (crotoniati e pitagorici)'. Cozzoli (1980) 136-7 and del Corno (1993) 11 also locate the origin of these stories among the Pythagoreans at Croton.

⁵ Pelling (2000) 175.

⁶ Pelling (2000) 176.

⁷ 6.273b-c, ἀλλ' οὐ Σμινδυρίδης ὁ Συβαρίτης τοιοῦτος, ὃ Ἕλληνας, ὃς ἐπὶ τὸν Ἀγαρίστης τῆς Κλεισθένους θυγατρὸς ἐξορμῶν γάμον ὑπὸ χλιδῆς καὶ τρυφῆς χιλίους συνεπήγετο οἰκέτας, ἀλιεῖς καὶ ὀρνιθευτὰς καὶ μαγείρους· οὗτος δ' ὁ ἀνὴρ καὶ ἐνδείξασθαι βουλόμενος ὡς εὐδαιμόνως ἔζη, ὡς ἰστορεῖ Χαμαιλέων ὁ Ποντικός ἐν τῷ περὶ ἡδονῆς (τὸ δ' αὐτὸ βιβλίον καὶ ὡς Θεοφράστου φέρεται) οὐκ ἔφη τὸν ἥλιον ἐτῶν εἴκοσιν οὐτ' ἀνατέλλοντα οὔτε

sentence ‘is an extra fact hung on the framework of quotation, either just before or just after quotations, and it can simply be a fact drawn from his general knowledge’.⁸

Thus, awareness of Athenaeus’ tendency to compositional drift demands that the greatest weight be given to those passages in which the direct attribution to an author is clear. The genuineness of material that may be added to this framework will have to be judged on the basis of the picture of an author developed strictly from such clear citations. Such an approach is likely to exclude much of what is supposedly the best evidence for a tradition of Sybarite decadence.

Even in the case of fragments of indisputable attribution, there are further reasons for caution. Any historian using the testimony of the *Deipnosophistae* must, of course, constantly keep in mind the general admonition of P.A. Brunt that the ancients were fond of paraphrases and that these were shaped by the quoting author’s intent.⁹ Moreover, certain particularities of Athenaeus’ sympotic discourse make evaluating historical material in his work especially challenging. Christian Jacob, in his penetrating introduction to the recent Athenaeus commentary, draws attention to Athenaeus’ claims to be producing something new.¹⁰ These are surprising statements in a work which consists to a great extent of a web of quotations, but Jacob is able to offer an explanation. The novelty of which Athenaeus boasts arises from the paradoxical and unexpected connections among quotations. Athenaeus’ characters disdain ‘il ricorso alle fonti più obvie’.¹¹ Instead, to answer the question of the moment, they bring to bear evidence not usually cited in a given context. If Jacob is correct in his analysis, we must expect that Athenaeus, in his quest for paradox, uses historical evidence in ways inconsistent with a straightforward reading of the original author.

Evidence is not difficult to find, as we have already seen. Introducing Herodotus’ evidence on Smindyrides, Athenaeus says that the historian’s topic is the τρυφή of the Sybarite. This statement might seem an alteration of minor significance, especially since in Athenaeus’ own day τρυφή had become nearly synonymous with Herodotus’ χλιδή.¹² However, for Athenaeus τρυφή is a deeply pejorative term, while an examination of the original reveals no evidence that Herodotus means to characterize Smindyrides negatively.¹³ As we shall see, such small changes have far-reaching ramifications.

Other cases are presented by Delfino Ambaglio, who, in order to estimate Athenaeus’ reliability in fragmentary authors, has studied his use of Herodotus, Thucydides and Xenophon. Significantly, he finds distortion of sense occurring side by side with ‘la riproduzione esatta di un testo’.¹⁴

δύομενον ἑωρακέναί. καὶ τοῦτ’ ἦν αὐτῶι μέγα καὶ θαυμαστὸν πρὸς εὐδαιμονίαν. οὗτος, ὡς ἔοικεν, πρῶι μὲν ἐκόθευδεν, ὅπῃ δ’ ἠγείρετο, κατ’ ἀμφοτέρα δυστυχῶν (‘But Smindyrides of Sybaris was not such a man, O Greeks, who going off to the wedding of Agariste the daughter of Cleisthenes took a thousand slaves with him out of luxury and softness – fishers and fowlers and cooks. This is the man who wanted to demonstrate how happily he lived, as Chamaeleon of Pontus says in his *On Pleasure* (this same book is also ascribed to Theophrastus); he denied that he had seen the sun rise or set in 20 years. He considered this a great and wonderful mark of happiness. It seems he went to bed early and got up late, unfortunate on both counts’.) Note that Athenaeus cites Chamaeleon as authority for Smindyrides’ sleeping habits, but not for the fowler sentence.

⁸ Pelling (2000) 177.

⁹ Brunt (1980) 478-9.

¹⁰ Jacob (2001) ci with reference to 6.222a, ἐπειδὴ ἀπαιτεῖς συνεχῶς ἀπαντῶν, ἑταῖρε Τιμόκρατες, τὰ παρὰ τοῖς δειπνοσοφισταῖς λεγόμενα, καινὰ τινα νομίζων ἡμᾶς εὐρίσκειν (‘since, Timocrates, my friend,

when we meet you continuously demand what the Deipnosophists said, thinking that we discover new things ...’), and similar material at 13.613c-d and 15.665a.

¹¹ Jacob (2001) cii.

¹² Notice that Athenaeus conjoins τρυφή to χλιδή when he introduces Smindyrides at 6.273b-c.

¹³ We cannot be sure precisely what Herodotus means by χλιδή, since it occurs only here in the *Histories*. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that he is characterizing Smindyrides with a strong pejorative, given that he is listed in the context of a search for Ἑλλήνων ἀπάντων ... τὸν ἄριστον. Note as well that Athenaeus gives the impression that Herodotus’ focus is on Smindyrides and his decadence, when the historian’s point is the rise of the Alcmaeonids. In fact, as Bernhardt (2003) 136-7 points out, Herodotus usually does not show great interest in the moral effects of luxury: for example, he does not criticize either Croesus or Polycrates of Samos for their way of life, nor does he use their opulence to help explain their sudden downfalls.

¹⁴ Ambaglio (1990) 52.

Athenaeus used ‘facts’ attested by a historian to support the argument of his dialogue, without regard for whether such a use is consistent with the meaning of the passage in its original context.¹⁵ For example, at 6.75 Herodotus relates the suicide of Cleomenes of Sparta, who, though physically restrained and under guard, managed to obtain a knife and fatally mutilate himself. Athenaeus cites this passage tendentiously: ὅτι δὲ διὰ μέθην ἑαυτὸν καὶ μαχαίραι κατέτεμεν Ἡρόδοτος ἱστορήσῃ (10.436f, ‘Herodotus says that he cut himself up with a knife out of drunkenness’). Although there is no indication in the text of Herodotus that Cleomenes was drunk at the time, and further, although Athenaeus knows of *Histories* 6.84, where Herodotus rejects the Spartan tradition that Cleomenes’ madness was caused by a preference for strong wine which he learned from the Scythians, Athenaeus clearly implies that it is Herodotus’ view that Cleomenes acted διὰ μέθην.¹⁶

In a passage of special interest to our investigation, Athenaeus (4.144c) cites Xenophon’s *Agesilaus* 9.3, where the austere lifestyle of the Spartan is compared to that of the Persian kings. Once again Athenaeus characterizes the purport of the passage he quotes in his own terms: Xenophon, he says, is writing περὶ τῆς τρυφῆς of the Persians, though the word does not occur in the *Agesilaus*. Of course, in this instance a reader may judge that Athenaeus is offering an accurate interpretation of Xenophon’s text: Xenophon considers the Greek’s lifestyle to be morally superior to Persian luxury, and for Athenaeus τρυφή is unquestionably a moral failing.

Thus, study of Athenaeus’ use of extant historians gives the unsurprising result that sometimes the Deipnosophist interprets his sources in a manner that seems to us unobjectionable; at other times, the view he offers seems inconsistent or even at cross-purposes with the argument of the original. But as obvious as this information may be, it gains serious significance when we turn to evaluate the evidence for Athenaeus’ fragmentary authors. There we would give a great deal to be able to discern when our author is following his original closely and when he is elaborating.

2. ‘RUNNING AGROUND ON LUXURY’

A necessary first step in that direction is the identification, in passages where Athenaeus is citing historians, of patterns of thought or diction which we can assign with some degree of confidence to Athenaeus rather than his source. Note that in the examples from both Herodotus and Xenophon that are given above, the significant alterations made by Athenaeus occur in sentences in which Athenaeus introduces the authority of the author in question.¹⁷ If we examine introductory or transitional passages in Athenaeus’ discussion of τρυφή, we find reason to suspect that a similar elaboration has taken place.

The clearest evidence concerns the rather odd phrase (ἐξ)οκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν. Properly speaking, ἐξοκέλλειν is a navigational term meaning ‘to run aground’. Athenaeus’ expression thus might be rendered ‘to shipwreck onto luxury’ or the like. In the extant part of the *Deipnosophistae*,

¹⁵ Ambaglio (1990) 53: Athenaeus, ‘in questo caso come altrove, mostra di usare il testo di Erodoto senza riguardo alcuno per il suo significato’. A humorous illustration of Ambaglio’s point is the interpretation of Herodotus that Athenaeus gives at 3.78e. In the relevant passage (1.71.3), Herodotus relates the advice given to Croesus by the Lydian Sandanis: Croesus should not attack the Persians, because the Persian land was poor, with nothing to offer Croesus in case of a Lydian victory: οὐκ οἴνωι διαχρέωνται, ἀλλὰ ὕδροποτέουσι, οὐ σῦκα δὲ ἔχουσι τρώγειν, οὐκ ἄλλο ἀγαθὸν οὐδέν (‘they do not use wine, but are water drinkers; they have neither figs to eat, nor any other good thing’). Athenaeus quotes the paragraph containing Sandanis’ advice with the following introduction: ὁ δὲ θαυμασιώτατος καὶ μελίγηρς

Ἡρόδοτος ἐν τῇ πρώτῃ τῶν ἱστοριῶν καὶ μέγα ἀγαθὸν φησιν εἶναι τὰ σῦκα οὕτως λέγων ... (‘The most marvelous and sweet-voiced Herodotus in Book 1 of his *Histories* also says that figs are a great good, and I quote ...’).

¹⁶ Even if διὰ μέθην is taken to mean a chronic disposition toward drunkenness rather than a particular drunken episode, it is not Herodotus’ version, for he indicates that he prefers the explanation of the majority of Greeks, according to which Cleomenes was driven mad as divine retribution for tampering with the Oracle. Athenaeus quotes from this passage (6.84) at 10.427b, where he is interested in the Scythian connection.

¹⁷ Brunt (1980) 479 and Jacob (2000) xcvi each draw attention to the difficulties presented by the onsets and conclusions of fragments.

ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν occurs in connection with six different quotations and three (or four) different authors:

- 4.141f: ... οἱ Λάκωνες ἐξώκειλαν εἰς τρυφήν. Φύλαρχος γοῦν ...
 12.521c: Συβαρίται, φησὶν [sc. Φύλαρχος], ἐξοκείλαντες εἰς τρυφήν ἔγραψαν νόμον
 12.522a: Κροτωνιάται δ', ὡς φησι Τίμαιος, μετὰ τὸ ἐξελεῖν Συβαρίτας ἐξώκειλαν εἰς τρυφήν
 12.523c: οἱ τὴν Σῆριν δὲ κατοικοῦντες ..., ὡς φησι Τίμαιος καὶ Ἀριστοτέλης, εἰς τρυφήν ἐξώκειλαν
 12.526a: Κολοφώνιοι δ', ὡς φησι Φύλαρχος, ... ἐπεὶ εἰς τρυφήν ἐξώκειλαν
 12.528a-b: Πολύβιος δ' ... Καπησίους τοὺς ἐν Καμπανίαι ... ἐξοκείλαι εἰς τρυφήν καὶ πολυτέλειαν

In addition to these examples, ἐξοκείλαντες εἰς ὕβριν appears at 12.521d, in a passage generally supposed to be drawn from Phylarchus; and ἐξοκείλαι εἰς πολυτελῆ δίαίταν is explicitly said to come from Nicolaus of Damascus at 12.543a. Thus, Athenaeus associates the construction in question (ἐξοκέλλειν completed by a preposition whose object is τρυφή or a similar moral term) perhaps with Aristotle and without doubt with Timaeus, Phylarchus, Polybius and Nicolaus.

A brief examination of the history of this usage is instructive. If we leave aside for the moment the examples quoted in the previous paragraph, there are no securely attested instances of our phrase ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν before the Common Era. Ἐξοκέλλειν is used most often in early literature in its proper sense to refer to actual groundings by ships and also animals such as dolphins and snakes.¹⁸ The remaining uses from before the Common Era are metaphorical and worth examining in detail, for there are only six of them. Aeschylus (*Supp.* 438) uses the phrase intransitively to describe a predicament (δεῦρο δ' ἐξοκέλλεται, meaning 'It has come to this moment of crisis'), which he goes on to explain: Pelasgus must choose between waging war against one side or the other. In Euripides' *Tro.* 137, when Hecube uses the phrase (ἐς τάνδ' ἐξώκειλ' ἄταν, 'I have shipwrecked in so much ruin'), she does so in the context of a direct address to the very ships that brought the Greeks to Troy. Thus her usage is set in a strictly nautical framework. Isocrates three times uses the verb. At 7.18, the results of bad government are characterized as a shipwreck.¹⁹ At 15.268, he advises young men not to get bogged down in the arguments of the sophists (μηδ' ἐξοκείλασαν εἰς τοὺς λόγους τοὺς τῶν παλαιῶν σοφιστῶν) and, in a similar passage in *Ep.* 2.13, he promises to end a discussion too extensive for a letter instead of shipwrecking on lengthy discourse (ἀλλ' εἰς λόγου μῆκος ἐξοκείλας). These instances differ significantly from those quoted in Athenaeus, because they are a matter of running aground on something external to the subject (bad luck or the like), not on the subject's own proclivity for vice.

The last passage from this period, Polybius, *Hist.* 4.48.11, rings an interesting change on the early metaphorical uses. The context describes Achaëus, viceroy in command of Asia west of Mt Taurus. He avenged the assassination of King Seleucus, and usurped the throne from the Seleucid heir in 220 BC, but did not maintain his position long. He was captured and executed as a traitor in 213. Achaëus, it seems, ran aground not on bad luck, but on good: ἐπαρθεις τοῖς εὐτυχίμασι παρὰ πόδας ἐξώκειλε ('elated by his good fortune, he immediately ran aground').²⁰

¹⁸ The literal uses of the word that occur before the Common Era are: Aesch. *Ag.* 666; Hdt. 6.16.1, 7.182.1 bis, 8.84.2; Thuc. 2.91.4, 4.11.4, 4.12.1, 4.26.7, 8.102.3; Eur. *IT* 1379; Xen. *Anab.* 7.5.12; Arist. *Hist. Anim.* 533b and 631b, *Mir.* 844a; Nicander, *Ther.* 295 and 321; Polyb. *Hist.* 1.20.15, 1.51.9, 4.41.2; Diod. Sic. 1.31.4, 12. 62.3, 13.13.6, 20.87.2; Dion. Hal. 20.9; Strabo 9.5, 16.3.

¹⁹ 7.18.5, εἰς τραχύτερα πράγματα τῶν τότε γενομένων ἐξοκείλωμεν ('we may run aground on matters more rugged than the ones we faced then').

²⁰ It is possible to see in this passage a step toward the usage evident in Athenaeus, since in the later author good fortune, riches, etc. often are precursors to shipwrecking on some moral failing. However, this example seems to us a closer parallel to the earlier metaphorical uses than to the later ones: running aground on good fortune is simply a witty inversion of the more straightforward use that we have seen in Euripides and Isocrates. No serious moral culpability in Achaëus is necessarily entailed, but merely an inability to manage affairs in his new position. By contrast, moral blame on the part of the subject is regularly part of the usage later.

For a clear parallel to our examples from Athenaeus one has to wait until the writings of Philo in the first century AD. While he never uses the word for a literal shipwreck, it is a favourite turn of phrase for moral failings, in particular the indulgence of appetites that are better kept in check.²¹ In this connection, it may be significant that Philo elaborates the metaphor, as if he might have expected it to be unfamiliar to his readers:²²

μικρὰς πρὸς εὐτυχίαν αὔρας λαβόμενοι, πάντα κάλων ἀνασεΐσαντες, λαμπρὰ φυσῶμεν καὶ πνεύσαντες μέγα καὶ σύντονον πλησίστιοι πρὸς τὰς ἀπολαύσεις τῶν παθῶν φερόμεθα καὶ οὐ πρότερον στέλλομεν τὰς ἀνειμένας καὶ κεχαλασμένας ἀκρατῶς ἐπιθυμίας, ἕως ἂν ἐξοκείλαντες ὄλωι τῷ ψυχῆς ναυαγήσωμεν σκάφει. (*De mut. nom.* 215)

Catching the smallest breezes blowing towards good fortune, shaking out every reef, we blow a keen breeze and puffing to our utmost we move with full sails toward the enjoyment of our passions; we don't stop our slack and uncontrollably loose desires until, running aground, we shipwreck the whole vessel of our soul.

It is striking that, after Philo, the usage is adopted by that other important Jewish writer of the late first and early second century AD, Josephus, who uses it almost entirely in a moral sense.²³ In Josephus, the shoals are more broadly defined to include general savageness and madness.²⁴

After these early metaphorical appearances, the expression re-occurs with some frequency in a wide range of authors of the first and second centuries AD and beyond, in order to describe all variety of vice, including delicate living (ἀβροδίαιτον), dice, drunkenness, shamelessness and pleasure. It became a preferred expression for Plutarch, Cassius Dio and Clement of Alexandria especially. For example, Plutarch uses it nine times metaphorically, seven of which are applied to vice, while he uses the word literally only four times.²⁵ Omitting fragments preserved in later authors, Cassius Dio has but two literal uses (54.21 and 75.16) and ten metaphorical ones.²⁶ Clement employs the word ten times and applies it only to vice. Interestingly enough, he for the first time outside of Athenaeus relates the phrase to τρυφή (at *Paed.* 3.8.44.1 and 3.11.53.2).²⁷

²¹ Of the nine instances in Philo, two have a general moral referent implying vice (*Legum allegoriarum* 2.60.7; *De exsecrationibus* 170), and the other seven are more specific: things eyes should not be looking at (*De agr.* 34.5); love of unattainable things (*De confusione linguarum* 7.5); lust (*De somniis* 1.246); intemperate language, gluttony and licentiousness (*De somniis* 2.147); appetite and gluttony (*De somniis* 2.211); general incontinence (*De specialibus legibus* 2.135); passions (*De mut. nom.* 215).

²² Of course, this is only one possibility. The ability to revitalize a moribund metaphor is a mark of a skilled writer.

²³ Save for one passage about the landing of the ark, in which he is citing from Nicolaus of Damascus (*AJ* 1.95).

²⁴ His characters shipwreck upon: envy (*Vit.* 123.1); crimes like plotting against one's father (*AJ* 17.113); madness (*BJ* 4.261.2); savageness (*BJ* 4.381.2); and even, in the case of the Emperor Nero, the theatre (*BJ* 2.251.2).

²⁵ Metaphorical shipwrecking on stories, similar to Isocrates' uses: Plut. *De facie in orbe lunae* 940f6; *De sollertia animalium* 985c3. Metaphorical, describing vice: *Timoleon* 36.8.4 (ambition); *De liberis educandis* 5b9 (dice and partying); *Quaestiones convivales* 654e6 (*hybris*); *Lucullus* 38.4 (terrible things (Marius' later acts));

Brutus 1.2 (rage); *Marius* 2.4 (savageness and wildness), 45.10 (strange delusion). Literal: *Septem sapientium convivium* 160f7, 161a3; *De gloria Atheniensium* 347b2; *De sollertia animalium* 981b1.

²⁶ 19.62.1 (delicate living); 24.83.2 (the worst thing); 25.85.1 (evil); 55.16.3 (high birth, pride of wealth, loftiness of honours, arrogance of bravery, conceit of power); 57.13 (Tiberius ran aground when his rival, Germanicus, was removed); 58.23 (Tiberius asked the Senate not to give Gaius premature honours lest he run aground) 67.14.2.2 (the things of the Jews); 79.3.3.2 (the most shameful and illegal and polluted things); 141.13 (most dainty things); 286.13 (dainty living); S223.23 (things of the Jews).

²⁷ Also: *Paedagogus* 2.1.4.1 (desserts), 2.2.28.3 (pleasure), 2.8.61.1 (pleasure and relaxation), 3.2.10.3 (shamelessness), 3.8.44.1 (licentiousness), 3.11.53.2 (excess); *Stromata* 3.5.41.2 (pleasure); *Quis dives salvetur* 40.3.2 (evil). Additional authors employing this idiom include: Herodian for drunkenness (*Ab excessu divi Marci* 5.7.6), faults (6.1.5), and tyranny (7.10.2); Aelius Aristides for the worst evils (Πρὸς Πλάτωνα ὑπὲρ τῶν τεττάρων 149.20); Pausanias for ignorant desire (8.24.9); and Aelian for madness (*NA* 14.20) and τρυφή (*VH* 12.24 and 12.30).

Given this evidence, it seems best to locate the source of the occurrences of ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν in Athenaeus in that writer's own milieu. Such an interpretation is supported by a further consideration: it stretches credulity to believe that Athenaeus, in selecting examples of τρυφή from Timaeus, Phylarchus and the rest, would by some coincidence quote so many instances of what could not have been anything but a rare phrase. Thus we conclude that ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν represents an elaboration applied to the evidence cited by Athenaeus, and we should be careful not to attribute these words to the authorities named.²⁸

Once we begin to discern Athenaeus' *modus operandi*, it is possible to identify other turns of phrase that are likely to constitute later interpretation rather than the evidence of the original. One such is διαβόητος ἐπὶ + dative ('famous for'), which occurs frequently in the *Deipnosophistae*. To restrict ourselves to his discussion of luxury, διαβόητος ἐπὶ τρυφῇ is used at least three times in a way that might lead the reader to assume that these words are part of the source's evidence, though they clearly are not: 11.496e, ascribed to Nicander of Chalcedon; 12.518c, to Clearchus of Soli; 12.543b, to Rutilius. It is telling that the word διαβόητος does not occur in the direct transmission of any authors writing before the Common Era, whereas suddenly, in the first and second centuries AD, use not only of the word but of the phrase διαβόητος ἐπὶ + dative appears in many places, particularly in Plutarch, Josephus, Dio Chrysostomus, Clement of Alexandria and Origen.²⁹

Athenaeus shows by far the most inclination for the phrase: it occurs fifteen times in his *Deipnosophistae*, all but one of which describe fame derived from derogatory traits: luxury most frequently, but also delicate living (ὀψοφαγία), flattery, excessive eating, softness and feasting.³⁰ Similar to the phrase ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν, the suddenness with which this expression goes from, at most, very limited usage to a sudden proliferation in the Common Era suggests that it cannot be ascribed to authors of significantly earlier date. Διαβόητος κτλ. must be categorized as non-original.³¹

The last example of expressions of this sort that we shall examine is not a distinct phrase, but rather a pattern which, though clear, allows a significant degree of variation. Throughout the *Deipnosophistae* we find sentences with the following elements: a verb of motion (e.g. ἔρχομαι) with a dependent εἰς; a neuter singular pronoun as the object of εἰς; dependent on the pronoun, a genitive noun denoting the name of a vice; a result clause indicating the extent of the vice ('He went so far into vice that ...'). Once again we limit our examples to those involving τρυφή:

- 12.514e: Χάρης δ' ὁ Μιτυληναῖος ... εἰς τοῦτο, φησίν, ἦκον τρυφῆς οἱ τῶν Περσῶν βασιλεῖς ὥστε ...
 12.515d: Λυδοὶ δὲ εἰς τοσοῦτον ἦλθον τρυφῆς ὡς ..., ὡς ἱστορεῖ Ξάνθος ὁ Λυδὸς
 12.520c (concerning the Sybarites and apparently attributed to Aristotle): εἰς τηλικούτον δ' ἦσαν τρυφῆς ἐληλακότες ὡς ...
 12.522d: Ταραντίνους δὲ φησι Κλέαρχος ... εἰς τοσοῦτο τρυφῆς προελθεῖν ὥστε ...
 12.523a (concerning the Iapyges and apparently attributed to Clearchus): οἱ μετὰ τούτους ... εἰς τοῦτο τρυφῆς, εἶθ' ὕστερον ὕβρεως ἦλθον ὥστε ...

²⁸ Michael Flower (1994) 166, for example, suggests that Timaeus 'coined the evocative phrase "to run aground into luxury"'. However, it would be difficult to explain why this coinage – apparently felicitous enough to be repeated by Phylarchus and Polybius – would disappear from our view for 250 years (if we ignore *argumenti causa* Athenaeus' evidence) only to re-emerge with a flourish in Philo.

²⁹ Examples with the preposition include: Plut. *Luc.* 6.2; Josephus, *AJ* 9.182; D. Chrys. 3.72, 33.48; Clem. Al. *Exc. Theod.* 4.75.3; Orig. *Cels.* 1.29.33. It occurs in many lesser authors as well, with and without the ἐπὶ.

³⁰ Ath. *Deipn.* 3.100c, 6.252f, 8.338b, 9.401c, 11.496d, 11.509e, 12.510b, 12.513f, 12.518c, 12.527c, 12.543b, 13.588b, 15.690b. The single exception to the negative activities is in the epitome of Book 1 (1.14e), where Demoteles and Chairephon are famous, along with people such as Nausicaa, for being ball players. The wording may be that of the epitomizer rather than Athenaeus, of course.

³¹ That it is part of Athenaeus' own idiom is probably entailed by the occurrence of the phrase in passages that belong to the symposiastic framing dialogue, e.g. 510b, the introduction to Book 12.

Other parallels could be adduced, whether about different vices or departing from the pattern to some degree. This list, however, will suffice to establish that we are justified in suspecting that any expression of this sort is a later addition.³² Further study would no doubt reveal other such phenomena, but it is already obvious that any characterization of motives or the like that Athenaeus applies to a historical fragment must be treated with extreme scepticism, even when worded as part of the quotation. In view of the demonstrated tendency in the text of the *Deipnosophistae* sometimes to misrepresent the tenor of historical evidence, the opinion of the named source must be identified *only* on the basis of the facts related in the fragment, where these can be ascertained.

Interpretations of Athenaeus' evidence on Sybarite τρυφή face one more serious difficulty. In the preceding paragraphs we have for simplicity's sake said that it was Athenaeus who adjusted the thrust of his historical sources. It is possible that it is more accurate to lay at least part of the responsibility on an intermediate source. Although the question of Athenaeus' use of intermediaries is extremely complicated and perhaps overwrought with scholarship, nevertheless we must approach it briefly, since pertinent evidence has been so far overlooked in the literature.

We have noted above the existence of a passage cited from Nicolaus of Damascus in which the ἐξοκέλλειν expression is used. We must now give the quotation in full:

Νικόλαος δ' ὁ περιπατητικὸς ἐν τῇ δεκάτῃ καὶ ἑκατοστῇ τῶν Ἱστοριῶν Λεύκολλον φησὶν ἀφικόμενον εἰς Ῥώμην καὶ θριαμβεύσαντα λόγον τε ἀποδόντα τοῦ πρὸς Μιθριδάτην πολέμου ἐξοκέλλαι εἰς πολυτελῆ δίαιταν ἐκ τῆς παλαιᾶς σωφροσύνης τρυφῆς τε πρώτων εἰς ἅπαν Ῥωμαίοις ἡγεμόνα γενέσθαι, καρπωσάμενον δυεῖν βασιλέων πλοῦτον Μιθριδάτου καὶ Τιγράνου. (12.543a)

Nicolaus the Peripatetic in the one hundred and tenth book of his *Histories* says that Lucullus, when he had arrived in Rome and celebrated a triumph and given an account of his war against Mithridates, ran aground upon an extravagant mode of life instead of his old moderation and, enjoying the wealth of two kings, Mithridates and Tigranes, he became the very first to lead the Romans into luxury.

From the evidence we have gathered in the preceding paragraphs, we may conclude that the words ἐξοκέλλαι εἰς πολυτελῆ δίαιταν, at least, do not belong to Nicolaus.³³ This information becomes very significant if we are aware that Athenaeus had quoted the same lines of Nicolaus at 6.274e-f.³⁴ The earlier quotation is substantially identical, and we find once again the expression

³² Unlike ἐξοκέλλειν κτλ., the εἰς τοῦτο τρυφῆς construction is Classical: Xen. *Hell.* 6.2.6, ὥστ' ἔφασαν τοὺς στρατιώτας εἰς τοῦτο τρυφῆς ἐλθεῖν ὥστ' οὐκ ἐθέλειν πίνειν, εἰ μὴ ἀνθοσμίας εἶη ('Consequently, the soldiers advanced so far into luxury that they refused to drink if the wine did not have a fine bouquet'). It is the high frequency of this expression in Athenaeus that is the basis of our argument. In addition, the same reasoning seems to apply to the many instances in which Athenaeus introduces a τρυφή example (or effects a transition between parts of a τρυφή example) with a correlative expression completed by a result clause (this time, without the prepositional phrase εἰς τοῦτο τρυφῆς or similar). For example, 12.526b (of the Colophonians), οὕτω δ' ἐξελύθησαν διὰ τὴν ἄκαιρον μέθην ὥστε ('they were so undone by excessive alcohol that ...'); or 12.536bc, ἐτρύφησεν δὲ καὶ Φάραξ ὁ Λακεδαιμόνιος ... καὶ ταῖς ἡδοναῖς οὕτως ἀσελγῶς ἐχρήσατο ... ὥστε ('Pharax the Lacedaemonian indulged in luxury and pursued his pleasure so wantonly that ...').

³³ It remains an open question the extent to which the sentence accurately reflects Nicolaus' meaning. It would be especially important to know whether it is Nicolaus

himself who identifies Lucullus as the first to bring τρυφή to the Romans, since most of our ancient sources put this event much earlier. See Zecchini (1989) 119 n.231.

³⁴ τῆς δὲ πολυτελείας τῆς νῦν ἀκμαζούσης πρώτος ἡγεμὼν ἐγένετο Λεύκολλος ὁ καταναυμαχῆσας Μιθριδάτην, ὡς Νικόλαος ὁ περιπατητικὸς ἱστορεῖ, ἀφικόμενος γὰρ εἰς τὴν Ῥώμην μετὰ τὴν ἦτταν τὴν Μιθριδάτου ἔτι τε τὴν Τιγράνου τοῦ Ἀρμενίου καὶ θριαμβεύσας λόγον τε ἀποδοὺς τῶν τοῦ πολέμου πράξεων ᾧκειλεν εἰς πολυτελῆ δίαιταν ἐκ τῆς παλαιᾶς σωφροσύνης καὶ πρώτος τρυφῆς εἰσηγητῆς Ῥωμαίοις ἐγένετο, καρπωσάμενος δυεῖν βασιλέων τῶν προειρημένων πλοῦτον. ('It was that Lucullus who defeated Mithridates who first introduced the extravagance that is now reaching its zenith. He, as Nicolaus the Peripatetic says, reaching Rome after the defeat of Mithridates and also that of Tigranes the Armenian and, celebrating his triumph and giving an account of his actions in the war, ran aground upon an extravagant way of life instead of his old moderation. Enjoying the wealth of the aforesaid two kings, he became the first to introduce luxury to the Romans.')

ᾠκειλεν εἰς πολυτελῆ δίαίταν ἐκ τῆς παλαιᾶς σωφροσύνης. Our previous argument rules out the likelihood that the phrase goes back to the original source, and it seems most implausible that Athenaeus, paraphrasing Nicolaus directly, would have added exactly the same material both times.³⁵ Explanation must be sought elsewhere.

The most straightforward approach is to assume that these two passages reveal Athenaeus in the act of self-quotation. On this interpretation, Athenaeus, in the course of his reading, excerpted an interesting bit of Nicolaus into a 'notebook' (ὑπόμνημα), apparently marking the theme with a favourite introductory phrase (ἐξοκέλλειν κτλ).³⁶ Later, when composing the *Deipnosophistae*, Athenaeus used these notes where appropriate, drawing twice from this same entry to give us our doublet.

This view is a plausible way of analysing the evidence of Athenaeus' own text and may be correct. However, certain data external to this text must give us pause. Scholars have long noted similarities between many passages in Athenaeus and in the *Varia Historia* of Aelian. Detailed discussion of the problems involved in understanding the relationship between these two works need not detain us. On the other hand, several parallels between Aelian and Athenaeus are pertinent to the question at issue.

VH 12.24 concerns that familiar example of τρυφή, Smindyrides:

Σμινδυρίδην τὸν Συβαρίτην λέγουσιν ἐπὶ τοσοῦτον τρυφῆς ἐξοκέλλαι, ὡς ἐς Σικυῶνα αὐτὸν ἀφικέσθαι μνηστῆρα Ἀγαρίστης τῆς Κλεισθένους, καὶ ἐπάγεσθαι χιλίους μὲν μαγείρους, τοσοῦτους δὲ ὀρνιθευτάς, καὶ ἀλιεῖς χιλίους.

They say that Smindyrides the Sybarite ran aground on so much luxury that he came to Sicyon as a suitor of Agariste the daughter of Cleisthenes and brought a thousand cooks and the same number of fowlers and fishers.

While there is nothing particularly interesting about the content of the passage – we have seen the same details about the fishers and fowlers and cooks in Athenaeus, where Pelling suggests they come from 'general knowledge' – the phraseology of its introduction is quite striking. Aelian has combined two of Athenaeus' favourite expressions for beginning a τρυφή-*exemplum*: ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν and ἐρχέσθαι (*vel sim.*) εἰς τοσοῦτον τρυφῆς. For his part, Athenaeus uses neither phrase in connection with Smindyrides, nor does he ever combine the two phrases so closely in any context. If, then, Aelian relies upon Athenaeus for this material, he shows a keen eye for the idiosyncrasies of his model, a virtue which few of Aelian's modern critics would admit. Moreover, Aelian repeats the combination in other passages:

Σμινδυρίδης ὁ Συβαρίτης ἐς τοσοῦτον τρυφῆς ἐξώκειλε ... φύλλοις ρόδων γοῦν ἐπαναπεσὼν καὶ κοιμηθεὶς ἐπ' αὐτῶν ἐξάνεστη λέγων φλυκταίνας ἐκ τῆς εὐνῆς ἔχειν. (*VH* 9.24)

Smindyrides the Sybarite ran aground on so much luxury ... lying down on rose petals and sleeping on them, he got up saying that he had sores from the mattress.

ἐς τοσοῦτον δὲ ἄρα Κυρηναῖοι τρυφῆς ἐξώκειλαν, ὥστε Πλάτωνα παρεκάλουν, ἵνα αὐτοῖς γένηται νομοθέτης. (*VH* 12.30)

³⁵ We cannot absolutely exclude the possibility that the words in question do go back to Nicolaus, since we have noted that the expression begins to become popular near the beginning of the Common Era. However, Nicolaus' would be the earliest attestation of this usage (to run aground on a subjective vice). Given Athenaeus' apparent fondness for the phrase, it therefore seems best

not to multiply causes and to operate on the assumption that the formulation was not part of the original.

³⁶ Important works on the use of notebooks by ancient authors include Pelling (1979 and 1985) and Van der Stockt (1999), both on Plutarch. Jacob (2001) lxxiv-lxxxiii discusses 'rotoli di note di lettura' in Athenaeus' own day.

The Cyreneans ran aground on so much luxury that they tried calling in Plato to become their lawgiver. Neither of these two instances of τρυφή appears in Athenaeus, at least as now extant; direct borrowing is therefore unlikely. Perhaps this evidence suggests that both Athenaeus and Aelian were, at the very least, influenced by the diction of a common source. This source need not have been a specific written work. The idea that Athenaeus drew upon a treatise Περὶ Τρυφῆς has been raised many times in the literature – and rejected just as often.³⁷ The *fons* in question may rather have been once again ‘general knowledge’, assuming that the effects of τρυφή had become a well-worn *topos* in the schools, with its own characteristic turns-of-phrase in addition to standard examples.³⁸

For the present, talk of an intermediary τρυφή-tradition remains speculation, but if we are correct in identifying phrases such as ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν, διαβόητος ἐπὶ τρυφῆι, and εἰς τοσοῦτον ἦλθον τρυφῆς ὡς as introductory or transitional expressions that should not be attributed to the original named sources, then the question of *Mittelquellen* must eventually be reopened and this new complication dealt with in detail. Meanwhile, a cautious and conservative approach to the historical evidence preserved in Athenaeus must allow for the very real possibility that some parts of that evidence may have been affected by passing through one or more layers of transmission before reaching Athenaeus.

3. THE LUXURY OF THE SYBARITES

We may now turn to examine Athenaeus’ testimony on Sybarite τρυφή. The earliest prose author that Athenaeus cites on this matter is Aristotle. At 12.520c we read on the authority of Aristotle in his *Constitution of the Sybarites* (or of the Crotoniates?) that the Sybarite custom of training their horses to dance to the flute put them at a tactical disadvantage in their war with Croton. This passage presents no good evidence that Aristotle represented this incident as connected with τρυφή. Athenaeus introduces the passage with the words εἰς τηλικούτον δ’ ἦσαν τρυφῆς ἐληλακότες ὡς καὶ παρὰ τὰς εὐωχίας τοὺς ἵππους ἐθίσαι πρὸς αὐλὸν ὀρχεῖσθαι (‘They had advanced to such a degree of luxury that their horses were accustomed to dance to the flute even at their feasts’). As argued above, in prudence we must assume that this sentence is not Aristotle’s. In addition, Athenaeus himself notes that nearly the same story is told of the Cardians, and as Athenaeus relates the Cardian episode (following Charon of Lampsacus), τρυφή seems to play no part. It is consistent with this evidence to judge that Aristotle may have discussed the dancing horses of Sybaris as a curiosity, not as symptomatic of the city’s decadence.

12.523c also names Aristotle in connection with Sybarite τρυφή:

καὶ οἱ τὴν Σῆριν δὲ κατοικοῦντες, ἦν πρῶτοι κατέσχον οἱ ἀπὸ Τροίας ἐλθόντες, ὕστερον δ’ ὑπὸ Κολοφωνίων [*lacuna*], ὡς φησι Τίμαιος καὶ Ἀριστοτέλης, εἰς τρυφήν ἐξώκειλαν οὐχ ἦσσαν Συβαριτῶν.

And those occupying Siris – first those coming from Troy possessed it, but later by the Colophonians [*lacuna*], as Timaeus and Aristotle say – ran aground upon luxury no less than the Sybarites.

³⁷ The supposed existence of an intermediate source for Book 12 is based ultimately on the words found in the margin of Codex Venetus Martianus 447 at 12.518d: τοῦτο καὶ Ἀλκίφρων μέμνηται ἐν τῷ περὶ παλαιᾶς τρυφῆς καὶ τῶν ἄλλων σχεδὸν ἀπάντων (‘Alciphron mentioned this and nearly all the same things in his book

On Ancient Luxury’). For a discussion of this Alciphron, see Zecchini (1989) 178 with n.150.

³⁸ Nyikos (1941) 9: *plerumque nihil aliud concludi potest nisi eas res, quae apud Athenaeum, Aelianum, ceteros narrantur, temporibus illis ubique – et Athenis et Romae et Alexandriae – notas atque pervulgatas fuisse.*

Athenaeus goes on to describe the beautiful clothing of the people of Siris. Once again, mention of τρυφή – whether that of Siris or of Sybaris – is a later addition by Athenaeus, who is citing the two probably as evidence merely for the Colophonian settlement at Siris.³⁹

The third passage in which Aristotle is quoted *vis-à-vis* Sybaris is of particular interest, since this time the original is still extant. 12.541a-b reproduces *Mirabilium auscultationes* 96.838a15-26, where we are told of the fabulous ἰμάτιον of a certain Sybarite named Alcisthenes (or Alcimenes).⁴⁰ The garment was remarkably extravagant, embroidered with images of, *inter alia*: Zeus and other gods; Susa, the Persian capital; Sybaris; and Alcisthenes himself. It was dedicated at the Lacinium of Hera. Dionysius the Elder later bought it from the Carthaginians for 120 talents. Athenaeus quotes from his authority verbatim with great accuracy. Nonetheless, he subtly manipulates the original to suit his own argument, through both addition and omission. As transmitted directly, the text of the *Mirabilium* passage begins:

Ἀλκιμένει τῷ Συβαρίτηι φασὶ κατασκευασθῆναι ἰμάτιον τοιοῦτον τῇ πολυτελείαι, ὥστε προτίθεσθαι αὐτὸ ἐπὶ Λακινίωι.

They say that such an expensive mantle was prepared for Alcimenes the Sybarite that he dedicated it at the Lacinium.

Compare Athenaeus' introduction to the anecdote:

Ἀλκισθένην δὲ τὸν Συβαρίτην φησὶν Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν τοῖς [περὶ τρυφῆς] Θαυμασίοις ὑπὸ τρυφῆς ἰμάτιον τοιοῦτον κατασκευάσασθαι τῇ πολυτελείαι ὡς προτίθεσθαι αὐτὸ ἐπὶ Λακινίου.

Aristotle says in *The Wonders* that Alcisthenes the Sybarite from decadence had prepared such an expensive mantle that he dedicated it at the Lacinium.

In *Mirabilium* the story of Alcisthenes has no context; the marvel as presented has no moral dimension, explicit or implied. For Athenaeus this will not do. The authorities he cites must support his position.⁴¹ He adds the crucial words ὑπὸ τρυφῆς, and Alcisthenes becomes another example of the immorality of Sybaris.⁴²

Similarly, because he values the testimony of Aristotle so highly, he neglects to inform his reader that the philosopher (as he thinks) is here giving hearsay evidence: *Mirabilium* presents its account as a report drawn from unspecified sources (φασὶ). Athenaeus removes this inconvenient reference and represents the decadence of Alcisthenes as Aristotle's own opinion (φησὶν Ἀριστοτέλης).⁴³ Thus, although as a spurious work *Mirabilium* can tell us nothing about traditions

³⁹ It is also possible that the information about the clothing came from Timaeus, who seems to have had an ethnographical interest in the way peoples dressed.

⁴⁰ *Mirabilium auscultationes* is, of course, not a work of Aristotle. Its loosely organized composite structure may be the result of contributions by several compilers. The various strata of which it consists are difficult to date with accuracy, but we need not be concerned here with such details. From our point of view it is sufficient that Athenaeus treats it as genuine.

⁴¹ Interestingly, Flashar (1981) 115, following Gefcken (1892) 96, confidently identifies the source of this story: 'Timaios hier sicher zu greifen ist'. The basis of this identification is Timaeus' notorious fascination for τρυφή. We shall see shortly how fragile a basis this is. Athenaeus does give us the information (12.541b) that the

garment was mentioned by Polemon in the work entitled *Περὶ τῶν ἐν Καρχηδόνι Πέπλων*; this fact would give us a *terminus ante* (c. 190 BC).

⁴² It is worth pointing out that Athenaeus' interpretation, which makes the mantle of Alcisthenes a symbol of Sybarite luxury, is probably correct. The story seems to belong to the same tradition as other exaggerated examples of Sybarite τρυφή, such as those surrounding Smindyrides. Thus, in order to adapt *Mir.* 96.838a15-26 to his own argument, Athenaeus coincidentally restored the moral context which the author of *Mirabilium* had removed, since he was interested only in the wonder itself. We think Athenaeus would have appreciated the irony.

⁴³ Despite the fact that he includes in his quotation a second φασὶ which occurs a few lines later (in connection with the mantle's purchase by Dionysius). We may take

of Sybarite τρυφή available to Aristotle, it does offer us a manifest case of that aspect of Athenaeus' method of citation which calls for the greatest circumspection in the modern historian: his painstaking accuracy in verbatim quotation undercut by slight but significant alteration.

In any case, Athenaeus produces no Aristotelian testimony bearing clearly on the issue of Sybarite luxury and most certainly no evidence that Aristotle was aware of a link between τρυφή and ὕβρις at Sybaris.

Athenaeus cites Heracleides Ponticus twice on the subject of Sybaris. At 12.521e-f, we are informed that immorality indeed led to the fall of that city: after the overthrow of the tyrant Telys, the members of his faction were slain on the altars. After that, the statue of Hera turned her back on the city, and a fountain of blood issued from her temple. For this reason, and for trying to diminish the Olympic games by setting up a rival contest with richer prizes (ἄθλων ὑπερβολῆι), the Sybarites were destroyed. This evidence, which comes from Heracleides' *Περὶ Δικαιοσύνης*, shows no explicit sign of τρυφή. To be sure, both the murders and the attempt to subvert the Olympics are acts that fall under the heading of ὕβρις. However, as we shall discuss below, when dealing with a fourth-century author, we have no warrant to assume a causal relationship between ὕβρις and τρυφή without a clear indication.⁴⁴ Certainly, we need not accept the argument that the transmission of historical 'facts' such as those presented here were motivated by the desire of Sybaris' enemies to justify its destruction.⁴⁵ According to Athenaeus, Heracleides offers (12.523f) in Book 2 of *On Justice* a parallel explanation of the destruction of Miletus by the Persians: διὰ τρυφήν βίου καὶ πολιτικὰς ἔχθρας ('on account of luxury of life and political hatreds').⁴⁶ There can be no question of the Persians feeling a need to justify in this manner what they did to Miletus. We may suggest that whatever circumstances led to the generation of the story of murder and divine retribution at Miletus would have sufficed in the case of Sybaris as well.⁴⁷

The second pertinent reference to Heracleides is to his *On Pleasure*:

Ἡρακλείδης δ' ὁ Ποντικὸς ἐν τῷ περὶ Ἡδονῆς Σαμίους φησὶ καθ' ὑπερβολὴν τρυφήσαντας διὰ τὴν πρὸς ἀλλήλους μικρολογίαν ὥσπερ Συβαρίτας τὴν πόλιν ἀπολέσαι. (12.525f-526a)

Heracleides Ponticus says in his *On Pleasure* that the Samians, luxuriating excessively, on account of their pettiness towards each other, like the Sybarites, lost their city.

Although this passage seems straightforward, it is quite difficult to understand precisely. In the first place, Athenaeus gives no further details, so we cannot begin to judge the accuracy of his characterization of this source. We know enough of Athenaeus' method to suspect that some part of the sentence is interpretation that may be inconsistent with Heracleides' evidence. It is quite possible, for example, that ὥσπερ Συβαρίτας is a comparison added by Athenaeus, for whom the parallel was obvious, and that Heracleides drew no analogy between Samos and Sybaris. Secondly, it is unclear how much of the predicate these words of comparison should be taken to qualify. At a minimum, τὴν πόλιν ἀπολέσαι is included, and we are merely told that the Samians because of their

this opportunity to emphasize that we intend no facile criticism of Athenaeus. As Jacob (2001) xcvi indicates, Athenaeus may have meant such citations as playful irony, knowing that his readers might be familiar with many of the original texts. Our admonitions are rather aimed at modern historians who are ready to accept Athenaeus' evidence without the heightened level of caution for which we argue.

⁴⁴ Fisher (1992), esp. 111-17, finds no causal relationship outside Athenaeus and the authors cited by him.

⁴⁵ Discussed with clarity by Ampolo (1993) 217-22.

⁴⁶ The subsequent details make clear that πολιτικὰς ἔχθρας are manifestations of ὕβρις. These words, part of Athenaeus' introduction of this evidence, are probably to be attributed to Athenaeus or his immediate source rather than to Heracleides.

⁴⁷ Gorman (2001) 102-7 argues that the story of violence at Miletus was based on the text of a prophecy that came – probably erroneously – to be associated with the Ionian city.

behaviour lost their city, just as did the Sybarites because of theirs.⁴⁸ In view of these uncertainties, it is perhaps best to set this passage aside as more informative of Heracleides on the Samians than the Sybarites.

To Theophrastus is attributed one fragment on Sybaris. In his *On Pleasure*, we are told (12.511c), Theophrastus compared the life of Aristeidēs to those of Smindyrides and Sardanapallus: οὐκ ἐτρώφησεν ὡσπερ ἐκεῖνοι ('he did not luxuriate as they did'). There are no more details, so caution again leads us to hesitate to accept Athenaeus' word that Theophrastus viewed Smindyrides' lifestyle as immoral.

At 6.273c Athenaeus cites Chamaeleon of Heraclea Pontica, and it will be convenient to discuss this passage here, since Athenaeus notes that the work *On Pleasure* to which he refers is sometimes attributed to Theophrastus. The subject is once more Smindyrides, in a passage we have discussed above in the context of Pelling's analysis of Athenaeus' method. Athenaeus reports that Smindyrides, motivated ὑπὸ χλιδῆς καὶ τρυφῆς, took a thousand servants when he went to compete for the hand of Agariste of Sicyon. Pelling astutely observes that this anecdote is unattributed, while Chamaeleon (or Theophrastus) is given responsibility only for the information that for 20 years Smindyrides saw neither sunrise nor sunset. Significantly, Smindyrides' sleeping habits seem to have been reported from his own point of view: οὗτος δ' ὁ ἀνὴρ καὶ ἐνδείξασθαι βουλόμενος ὡς εὐδαιμόνως ἔζη ... οὐκ ἔφη τὸν ἥλιον ('This man, wishing to demonstrate how happily he lived, denied that he had seen the sun ...'). Thus, for Chamaeleon, Smindyrides was a self-professed proponent of hedonism, and Smindyrides' original claim (wherever Chamaeleon may have found it recorded) was no admission of immoral behaviour.⁴⁹ Nor do we have any reason to assume that Chamaeleon himself characterized it as an example of the vice of τρυφή.⁵⁰ This passage is therefore not evidence for the existence of a tradition of Sybarite decadence in the fourth century.

Timaeus of Tauromenium is Athenaeus' favourite source on Sybaris. The *Deipnosophistae* includes at least seven pertinent fragments of that author. The first occurs in the epitome of 1.34c, where we are told that the presence of cabbage weakens the effects of wine: διὸ καὶ Συβαρίται, φησὶ Τίμαιος, πρὸ τοῦ πίνειν κράμβας ἥσθιον ('It is for this reason, Timaeus says, that the Sybarites ate cabbages before drinking'). Some have seen here an allusion to τρυφή, of which drunkenness is certainly a part. We merely note that it is precisely in reporting the motivation explaining such historical 'facts' (i.e. διὸ) that Athenaeus' own concerns override those of his sources. The relationship between the Sybarites' fondness for cabbage and their putative love of wine may be an observation of Athenaeus or of his epitomizer, not Timaeus.

The next passage is more to the point. According to Athenaeus 12.518d, Timaeus knew a joke about Sybarite laziness:⁵¹

⁴⁸ If the comparison includes διὰ τὴν πρὸς ἀλλήλους μικρολογίαν, Heracleides' account in Περὶ Ἡδονῆς contradicts that given in Περὶ Δικαιοσύνης, for one can hardly reconcile μικρολογία and murder. Μικρολογία is used consistently for petty reasoning, splitting hairs, or even stinginess: e.g. Isoc. 13.8, 15.262; Plato, *Theat.* 175a7, *Hp. mai.* 304b4, *Resp.* 486a5, 558b1, *Leg.* 746e4; Arist. *Metaph.* 995a10. At a stretch, it can mean 'to belittle', as at Isoc. 15.2, but nothing more momentous is signified. Such a contradiction is of course possible, given the different focus of the two works.

⁴⁹ Compare Athenaeus 12.512a, where we are told that Heracleides Ponticus included in his *On Pleasure* a defence of luxury as offered by its devotees: ἅπαντες γοῦν οἱ τὴν ἡδονὴν τιμώντες καὶ τρυφᾶν προσητημένοι μεγαλόψυχοι καὶ μεγαλοπρεπεῖς εἰσιν, ὡς Πέρσαι καὶ

Μῆδοι ('All who esteem pleasure and choose to live in luxury are lordly and magnificent, like the Persians and Medes').

⁵⁰ The words which close the discussion of Smindyrides – οὗτος, ὡς ἔοικεν, πρῶι μὲν ἐκάθευδεν, ὅπῃ δ' ἠγείρετο, κατ' ἀμφοτέρα δυστυχῶν ('This man, it seems, went to bed early and got up late, unfortunate on both counts') – are to be taken as Athenaeus' rather than Chamaeleon's, since their point seems to be a contrast with the next example, Hestiaeus Ponticus, who 'properly boasted' (καλῶς ἐκαυχᾶτο) that he had not seen the sun come up or go down because of his constant dedication to his studies.

⁵¹ The discussion of Sybarite τρυφή begins a few lines before Timaeus is named. In this section Athenaeus relates that the Sybarites shackled their bath slaves to keep them

ἱστορεῖ δὲ περὶ αὐτῶν Τίμαιος ὅτι ἀνὴρ Συβαρίτης εἰς ἀγρόν ποτε πορευόμενος ἔφη ἰδῶν τοὺς ἐργάτας σκάπτοντας αὐτὸς ῥήγμα λαβεῖν· πρὸς ὃν ἀποκρίνασθαί τινα τῶν ἀκουσάντων, αὐτὸς δὲ σοῦ διηγουμένου ἀκούων πεπονηκέναι τὴν πλευράν.

Concerning these people, Timaeus relates that a man of Sybaris said that, when on the way to the country he caught sight of some workmen digging, he ruptured himself. To which one of his audience responded: 'I myself hurt a rib just listening to you.'

This evidence shows that Timaeus was aware of an association between Sybaris and *τρυφή*, since extreme indolence is one of the manifestations of that vice. On the other hand, this story is simply a joke, and we need assume neither a historiographically motivated origin nor that it is part of a systematic argument for *τρυφή* as a leading factor in the destruction of Sybaris.

However, to complicate matters, the passage just quoted is immediately followed by two more anecdotes. Both concern visits by Sybarites to cities that symbolized moderation of lifestyle. In the first, a group of Sybarites at Croton sees an athlete softening his own ground in the palaestra and the visitors wonder aloud that the Crotoniates have no slaves to do such a task. In the second story, the location is Sparta, where a Sybarite is invited to a common mess to eat the food of the locals. It is no strange thing, he exclaims, that the Spartans act with such courage: the worst coward would prefer to die rather than to live such a life.

These stories may be seen as evidence of historiographical dimensions of *τρυφή*, since the contrast between Sybarite luxury and simpler life at Croton and Sparta may point to a theory of historical causation: *τρυφή* brought Sybaris to ruin, while moderation made the Crotoniates and Spartans powerful. Of course, for such an interpretation to be persuasive, one must establish that these examples appeared in the text of some historian. Unfortunately, we cannot be confident that they come from Timaeus. In addition to Pelling's general caution that Athenaeus sometimes brings foreign material under the aegis of a named authority, there are more particular reasons for scepticism. One such reason is the repetition at 4.138c of the story of the Sybarite at Sparta. Here Athenaeus gives the tale a non-specific attribution (φασὶ δὲ τινες) which we are perhaps justified in taking as a reference to general knowledge.⁵² If the Sparta anecdote may be Athenaeus' own contribution, it is economical to posit the same source for the Croton story, since the two make the same point, putting Sybarite sloth in the context of more traditional Greek *mores*.⁵³ The story of the ruptured Sybarite is not parallel.⁵⁴ Thus, in order to put Timaeus' evidence about Sybaris on the most secure footing, we should mark the end of this fragment at the close of the rupture joke.

from bringing the hot water too quickly and scalding their masters; that smiths and carpenters were forbidden by law from working in the city, since they were too noisy; that it was not even permitted to raise roosters in Sybaris. We have seen that Pelling urges caution in such cases: just because Timaeus is the first authority mentioned in this context, we may not assume that Athenaeus is attributing *all* the material to that author. By contrast, Zecchini (1989) in his discussion of this passage does not even seem to be aware of complications such as those laid out by Pelling: 'per l'esattezza il testo di Timeo comincia con la formula introduttiva Περί δὲ Συβαριτῶν τί δεῖ καὶ λέγειν;' (176). In other words, Zecchini accepts the anecdotes preceding the citation of Timaeus as the historian's own. Unfortunately, Zecchini offers no arguments to explain his confidence.

⁵² As Pelling does in connection with the Smindyrides passage.

⁵³ The placement of the Croton story immediately after the rupture story may have been suggested to Athenaeus by the occurrence in both of the verb σκάπτω ('dig').

⁵⁴ It is difficult to know what to make of the fact that Diodorus Siculus apparently related the Sparta story and the rupture story together (8.18), perhaps in close proximity to the tradition that the Sybarites were especially friendly with the Ionians and the Etruscans (8.18), a tradition that Athenaeus explicitly ties to Timaeus. Some scholars (e.g. de Sensi Sestito (1988) 405-6; Bugno (1999) 7-8) take this pattern of collocation as evidence of Timaeus' origin. We merely note that there is some indication that Diodorus knew of an intermediate moralizing *τρυφή*-tradition such as that upon which Athenaeus seems to have relied. It is likely that the Sybaris material from Diodorus 8 passed through such a stage. For example, introducing the relationship between Sybaris and Ionia is the phrase τοσοῦτος δὲ ἦν ζῆλος παρ' αὐτοῖς τρυφῆς ὥστε ...

Another fragment occurs in close succession. At 12.518f Athenaeus reports that, ὡς φησιν ὁ Τίμαιος, the Sybarites were accustomed to keep dwarfs and small Maltese dogs.⁵⁵ As usual, the data are characterized in words (διὰ τὴν τρυφήν) which may belong to Athenaeus. In any event, no historiographical connection to ὕβρις or to the ruin of the city is evident.

Some interpreters maintain that 12.522a proves that Timaeus understood τρυφή as a morally corrosive contagion that passed by contact from one city to another:

καὶ Κροτωνιάται δ', ὡς φησι Τίμαιος, μετὰ τὸ ἐξελεῖν Συβαρίτας ἐξώκειλαν εἰς τρυφήν· ὥστε καὶ τὸν ἄρχοντα αὐτῶν περιέναι κατὰ τὴν πόλιν ἀλουργίδα ἡμφιεσμένον ...

The Crotoniates too, as Timaeus relates, after the capture of the Sybarites, ran aground upon luxury, so that their ruler went around through the city wearing purple ...

By now, it would be belabouring the point unduly if we were to do more than indicate that the words introducing this passage cannot be assigned to Timaeus. We are left with information on the dress of the Crotoniate leader that may have been merely ethnographical in import.⁵⁶

Timaeus' testimony at 12.523c has been discussed in connection with Aristotle. Likewise we have seen that Pelling's arguments make short work of the assumption that Timaeus is responsible for the information at 12.541b-c that Smindyrides went courting 'with a thousand cooks and fowlers'.

The final fragment of Timaeus which pertains to Sybaris begins at 12.519b-c. We have taken it up out of its order in the text of Athenaeus because it has been the most important source on Sybarite τρυφή in the scholarship. The passage begins with Athenaeus noting that the Sybarites wore ἰμάτια made from Milesian wool. The wool trade, it seems, was the basis for the close relationship between the two cities:

ἀπ' ὧν δὴ καὶ αἱ φιλίας ταῖς πόλεσιν ἐγένοντο, ὡς ὁ Τίμαιος ἱστορεῖ. ἠγάπων γὰρ τῶν μὲν ἐξ Ἰταλίας Τυρρηνοῦς, τῶν δ' ἔξωθεν τοὺς Ἴωνας, ὅτι τρυφῆι προσεῖχον.

From this the cities became friends, as Timaeus relates, for of the people of Italy they became close to the Etruscans, and of outsiders to the Ionians, because they were devoted to luxury.

Attention to Athenaeus' habit of massaging all evidence to fit his argument must make us aware that it is not unlikely that the reference to τρυφή was not in Timaeus. We are left with a fact about Sybarite dress and the observation that friendship follows trade. So far, there is nothing that would make plausible a tradition in which τρυφή might justify the fall of Sybaris.⁵⁷

('Their zeal for luxury was so great that ...'). In our general remarks on Athenaeus' method we have argued that similar expressions belong to an intermediate source (of indeterminate kind) for the discussion of τρυφή in the *Deipnosophistae*. Thus, collocation of similar material in Athenaeus and Diodorus may reflect the influence of an transmitting rather than original source.

⁵⁵ The material attributed to Timaeus is preceded by a sentence in which we are told about the extravagant dress of the Sybarite youth. Once again, the source may be general knowledge.

⁵⁶ The details of this passage, relating as they do to Croton, do not concern us. However, we note that recognition that ἐξώκειλαν εἰς τρυφήν is not of Timaeus origin renders otiose Jacoby's suggestion that the alternate explanation offered here for the Crotoniate custom also goes back to Timaeus, who presented it for polemical reasons.

The introductory and concluding words of that alternative are germane to our discussion (12.522b-c): οἱ δὲ οὐ διὰ τρυφήν φασι τοῦτο γεγονέναι, ἀλλὰ διὰ Δημοκῆδη τὸν ἰατρόν. ... οὐ τρυφῆς χάριν οὐδὲ ὕβρεως, ἀλλ' ἐπηρείας τῆς εἰς τοὺς Πέρσας ('Others say that this occurred not because of luxury, but because of Democedes the physician. ... not for the sake of luxury or of arrogance [*sc.* do they do this] but out of contempt for the Persians'). Just as the insinuation of motive (οὐ διὰ τρυφήν) in the first part of the quotation is typical of Athenaeus' method, so also the parallel part of the summation (οὐ τρυφῆς χάριν οὐδὲ ὕβρεως) stems from Athenaeus or his proximate source. Thus, one cannot assume that the close connection made here between τρυφή and ὕβρις goes back to an early date.

⁵⁷ We recognize that Milesian wool was well known for its softness. Diodorus Siculus knows of a tradition according to which the law of Zaleucus forbade men to wear

On the other hand, the words just quoted are followed by a long series of examples that without doubt illustrate a serious decadence. To give just a few: wealthy Sybarites took three days for a one-day journey into the country; roads leading to the countryside were roofed over; they publicly crowned cooks who developed fine dishes. The sequence culminates with an oracle that they will prosper until they hold a man in greater honour than the gods. This prophecy is fulfilled, and the city is soon destroyed due to rivalry both among the Sybarites themselves and between Sybaris as a community and all the other cities – rivalry in pursuit of τρυφή.

No case of τρυφή as a principle of historical causation could be clearer. However, Pelling's work has taught us that we cannot assume without further argument that all the examples collected here come from Timaeus. The content of the Timaeus fragments on Sybaris already examined tells against Timaeus authorship of the material at 12.519b-e. The facts that can be securely ascribed to Timaeus are these: the Sybarites were fond of cabbage, they kept dwarfs and Maltese dogs, they wore Milesian wool clothing, and they traded with Ionia and Etruria. Timaeus also relates the joke about the ruptured Sybarite. Such tame material is hardly consonant with the exaggerated and even fantastic data given here (e.g. that the Sybarites piped wine from vineyard to warehouse or that they were the first to invent the chamber-pot). Nor can we find in Jacoby's collection of Timaeus' fragments (*FGrHist* 566) any parallel for this kind of uncritical credulity outside the realm of the mythological, if we assume that Timaeus seriously presented these items as facts about Sybaris.⁵⁸ Furthermore, in spite of the scholarly orthodoxy, the evidence that Timaeus was at all interested in τρυφή is extremely thin.⁵⁹ In view of these considerations, we conclude, as Pelling does in a similar case at 12.535b-e, that the instances of τρυφή in this passage are 'a catch-all medley from general knowledge'.⁶⁰

The last two authors whom Athenaeus cites in regard to Sybaris can be dispatched quickly. At 12.521c Athenaeus quotes Phylarchus (d. after 220/219) on a severe sumptuary law at Syracuse. Syracusan moderation stands in contrast to Sybarite τρυφή, for it was law in Sybaris that women must be invited to a feast with a year's notice, so that they might prepare their costumes. The transition to this example is familiar in form: Συβαρίται, φησίν, ἔξοκείλαντες εἰς τρυφήν ἔγραψαν νόμον ... ('The Sybarites, he says, running aground upon luxury, wrote a law ...'). In this case the body of the quotation does support the interpretation that Athenaeus has given Phylarchus. The supposed law must be an instance of the τρυφή of Sybaris. Nevertheless, this passage need not attest to the existence of a principle of historical causation. Rather, its origin is not far to seek: the Hellenistic interest in sumptuary legislation which led to the 'discovery' of the Syracusan case would suffice to create the Sybarite νόμος as a foil.⁶¹ Thus, we can accept this passage as evidence that by 220 BC Sybaris had become a symbol of τρυφή. It is not, however, proof of τρυφή as agent of historical change.

A more likely possibility for that proof follows a few lines later, when we read that the Sybarites eventually turned to ὕβρις. They slaughtered ambassadors from Croton on the altars, provoking the anger of Hera and their own destruction (12.521d). Unfortunately, interpretation is not easy.

α ἰμάτιον ἰσομλήσιον. Zaleucus' measures saved the city from τῆς βλαβερώς τρυφῆς. Of course, scholars have noticed that the law is not Archaic, and is probably not older than the fourth century BC; cf. Bernhardt (2003) 31-2 with notes.

⁵⁸ It is impossible to rule out that Timaeus related them as funny stories about the Sybarites. After all, he did tell the rupture joke, and there is a tradition of Sybarite jokes (γέλοιον Συβαριτικόν, 1259) preserved in Aristophanes' *Wasps*, although these gags are not particularly linked to luxury. At 1427-31, Philocleon relates that an ἀνὴρ Συβαρίτης fell from his chariot and hurt his head, whereupon a friend told him to stick to the business he knew. A

few lines later (1435-40), the subject is 'a woman of Sybaris' who, breaking a jar (ἐχίνος), passed a suitable witticism. A similar phrase (Συβάρεια ἐπιφθέγματα) is attributed to the fifth-century Sicilian comic, Epicharmus (*Suda* Σῆγμα 1271). At any rate, in our case the passage would not be evidence that Timaeus recognized as a historical force the evolution from τρυφή to ὕβρις to ἀπάθεια.

⁵⁹ See below, n.81.

⁶⁰ Pelling (2000) 176.

⁶¹ On the question 'Sind alle diese Gesetze unecht und Phantasieprodukte griechischer Moralisten?', see Bernhardt (2003) 248-54.

We cannot overlook the possibility that this passage does not come from Phylarchus, since he is not named in the immediate context. In addition, transition to this passage is effected by the ἐξοκέλλειν-formula: πάνυ οὖν ἐξοκέιλαντες εἰς ὕβριν ... ('running entirely aground upon *hybris* ...'). This phrase usually occurs at the beginning of a citation and may therefore indicate a change of source. On the other hand, since, when introductory, the authority's name is normally mentioned, ἐξοκέλλειν κτλ. may well be resumptive in this instance.⁶² In sum, Phylarchus knew of Sybaris as a centre of τρυφή. He may *possibly* have related the fall of Sybaris in terms of ὕβρις and divine justice (giving essentially the same story as that already told in Heracleides). But the only connection between τρυφή and ὕβρις clearly is made in the words of Athenaeus or his immediate source. We cannot know whether Athenaeus is once more distorting the content of the original.

The final fragment touching on Sybaris is from Polybius. At 12.528a-b Athenaeus tells how the decadence of the Capuans led them to call in Hannibal. In τρυφή they excelled even Sybaris: ἐξοκέilai εἰς τρυφήν καὶ πολυτέλειαν, ὑπερβαλλομένους τὴν περὶ ... Σύβαριν παραδεδομένην φήμην ('they ran aground on luxury and extravagance, outdoing the traditional fame of Sybaris'). Given the presence of the ἐξοκέλλειν-formula, it is legitimate to suggest that the reference to τρυφή and the comparison with Sybaris is not Polybian, although Polybius is certainly concerned with excess.⁶³ The passage adds nothing to our explicit evidence on that city.

4. CATASTROPHIC LUXURY

Such is Athenaeus' evidence on Sybarite τρυφή. We have made it clear that we think it of little value. One may object that we have treated Athenaeus unfairly: though it is clearly possible *a priori* that, for example, the phrase ἐξοκέλλειν εἰς τρυφήν may accurately paraphrase the tale of a community that fell into ruin because of luxury – with Sybaris as a prominent example – we have not allowed that interpretation. Our scepticism is considered. Although it is a commonplace that the idea of excessive luxury leading to personal and political destruction was a widespread Greek view, our examination of the evidence indicates that its importance has been much exaggerated.

There is no place here for a detailed treatment of the subject. We shall limit ourselves to a discussion of a few passages advanced by the two most comprehensive studies of the topic, Passerini (1934) and Bernhardt (2003),⁶⁴ as the best proof of the historiographical significance of the idea of ruinous τρυφή.⁶⁵

⁶² If it is resumptive, we may assume that the intervening material (on certain patent laws and tax exemptions) is not from Phylarchus.

⁶³ Though Zecchini (1989) 90-1, followed by Walbank (2000) 162, believes this quotation to be taken directly from Polybius, few passages in Athenaeus can show so clearly the signs of manipulation: in addition to the ἐξοκέλλειν-formula, we find here the commonplace that τρυφή comes διὰ τὴν ἀρετὴν τῆς γῆς (the text of Diodorus alone offers parallels at 3.42.2, 5.10.2, and 34/35.2.26. The phrase οὐ δυνάμενοι ... φέρειν τὴν παροῦσαν εὐδαιμονίαν recalls Ps.-Scymnus 345 and Diodorus 10.23. Even the subsequent contrast with the virtue of the Petelians has a now familiar appearance: Πετηλίνοι δὲ ... εἰς τοσοῦτον καρτερίας ἦλθον ... ὥστε ... ('the Petelians ... reached such a state of endurance ... that ...'). We suspect that this phraseology is the mark of transmission through a moralist or rhetorical tradition, but a detailed exploration must await another opportunity. In any case, it may not be an exaggeration to say that all

we can confidently ascribe to Polybius is the story that the Capuans called in Hannibal and the Petelians resisted him.

⁶⁴ Cozzoli (1980), Lombardo (1983) and Nenci (1983) also examine historiographical aspects of luxury at some length, but present no important evidence not dealt with by Passerini and Bernhardt.

⁶⁵ The word ἀβρός 'delicate, luxurious' and its cognates first appear at the end of the seventh century BC. Throughout the Archaic period it was usually a positive quality, as at Sappho F 58.25 LP, ἔγω δὲ φίλημμι' ἀβροσύναν and Solon F 24.4 West, where γαστρί τε καὶ πλευραῖς καὶ ποσὶν ἀβρὰ παθεῖν is as satisfying as great riches. This positive view of luxury seems to have prevailed well into the fifth century. The last decades of the 400s saw an important shift with the appearance of the word τρυφή, which by the fourth century was almost always negative in connotation. We are not here interested in the development of the idea of luxury as a vice, but only its use as historical explanation.

We may stipulate at the outset that by the end of the fifth century there existed clear examples of peoples thought to have been weakened politically by a luxurious lifestyle. Herodotus, of course, already knew a tradition according to which Croesus advised Cyrus to raise the children of the Lydians in soft clothes and music (1.155.4): καὶ ταχέως σφέας, ὦ βασιλεῦ, γυναϊκας ἀντ' ἀνδρῶν ὄψεαι γεγονότας ('and you will quickly see them, O King, become women instead of men'). In the same vein, Euripides depicts the Phrygians as weak in war (*Or.* 1483-5). Later, the list is expanded by Isocrates to include the Persians themselves, οὓς ὑπειλήφαμεν μαλακοὺς εἶναι καὶ πολέμων ἀπείρους καὶ διεφθαρμένους ὑπὸ τῆς τρυφῆς ('whom we have taken to be soft and ignorant of war and ruined by luxury', 5.124).⁶⁶

On the other hand, neither Passerini nor Bernhardt is able to offer good evidence that the idea of pernicious luxury had a more general application in the Classical and early Hellenistic periods;⁶⁷ certainly they cannot make a persuasive case that it was a recognized principle of historical causation. For example, Theopompus of Chios is advanced as especially avid in pursuit of the effects of τρυφή,⁶⁸ yet most of the numerous fragments of this author cited by Passerini fail to connect τρυφή with ruin in a significant way.⁶⁹ Even where the fragment mentions both the luxury and the destruction of the subject, the relationship between the two remains dubious. F 114 (= Athenaeus 12.531a-d) tells of the rivalry in τρυφή of Straton, king of Sidon, and Nicocles, the ruler of Cypriot Salamis. After detailing the emulous hedonism of the two, the passage ends by noting their deaths:

ἐσπούδαζον δὲ δοκεῖν εὐδαίμονες εἶναι καὶ μακαριστοί· οὐ μὴν περὶ γε τὴν τοῦ βίου τελευτὴν διητυχήσαν, ἀλλ' ἀμφοτέροι βιαίῳ θανάτῳ διεφθάρησαν. (12.531d)

They sought earnestly to seem happy and prosperous, but their good luck did not extend to their lives' end; both died a violent death.

From the wording of this final sentence we might suspect that the moral pointed here is not the corrosive effects of luxury, but the familiar adage 'count no man happy before he dies'.⁷⁰ That this is the correct interpretation is confirmed by the immediate context in which Athenaeus quotes the passage. Before this, we are treated to a poem of Phoenix of Colophon, who purports to give the epitaph of King Ninus of Assyria, famous for his luxury. Ninus truly possessed, it seems, only the pleasures he experienced in life. Death came suddenly and violently, and his riches did not protect him. Ninus' words show no hint of regret towards his life of τρυφή, only recognition that even such

⁶⁶ Plato, at *Laws* 694c-695e, explains how an education corrupted by τρυφή caused Cambyses and Xerxes to be much lesser men than their fathers and subsequent generations of Great Kings to be μέγας in name rather than in fact. Similarly, *Republic* 8.566b-c considers the penchant for τρυφή among the children of the ruling élite as an important factor in the breakdown of oligarchies.

⁶⁷ Bernhardt (2003) 118-19 offers the historiography of Sparta as another example; the defeat of the Lacedaemonians at Leuctra was seen as a result of a turning away from the laws of Lyncurgus. However, the only two passages Bernhardt offers in evidence do not concern τρυφή. Isocrates 8.102-3 lays the blame for Spartan degeneracy not on luxury but on ἐξουσία, their ability to do whatever they liked. Likewise, the *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians* ascribed to Xenophon speaks of the corrupting influence of greed and the desire for gold. Greed is not the same thing as τρυφή.

⁶⁸ Passerini (1934) 45; Flower (1994) 166 identifies 'Theopompus' interest in luxury (τρυφή) as an explanation for historical change'.

⁶⁹ In F 31 (Cotys), F 36 (early Italians), F 39 (Illyrians), F 49 (Thessalians), F 121 (Rhodian oligarchs), F 132 (Umbrians), F 134 (Dionysius), F 139 (Chalcidians), F 185 (Apollocrates), FF 187-8 (Niseus), F 204 (Etruscans), F 227 (Methymnans) and F 233 (Tarentines), various aspects of luxury are recounted, but no explicit link is made between the presence of τρυφή and any serious misfortune befalling the subjects. Nor are those few fragments in which a deleterious outcome is mentioned of such a kind as to illustrate a widely applicable historical principle: in F 40 the Ardiaeans, because of their fondness for feasting and drunkenness, are poisoned and destroyed by their enemies. In F 186 Hipparinus, the son of Dionysius, is murdered as a drunken tyrant. Finally, F 283a relates that Dionysius the younger 'ruined his eyes with wine' (τὰς ὄψεις ὑπὸ τοῦ οἴνου διαφθάρηναι).

⁷⁰ We shall indicate below that there is some reason to believe that the wording of this sentiment is due to Athenaeus rather than Theopompus.

a life is not proof against disaster. It seems that Athenaeus' focus is on what can happen not *because of* but *in spite of* τρυφή. The same conclusion can be drawn from the fact that, after reporting Theopompus' testimony on Straton and Nicocles, Athenaeus tells us that Anaximenes told the same story in a work entitled Βασιλέων Μεταλλαγαι; such a work must have dealt with sudden changes of royal fortune, whatever the cause. Thus, it seems wrong to conclude from F 114 that Theopompus thought that luxury engendered destruction.⁷¹

On the other hand, F 62 (= Athenaeus 12.526d-f) appears, at least at first glance, to make the causal nexus patent. The Byzantines, it seems, had taught the Calchedonians democracy and worse:

ἐπεὶ δὲ τῆς δημοκρατίας τῶν Βυζαντίων ἐγεύσαντο, διεφθάρησαν εἰς τρυφήν [*lacuna*] καὶ τὸν καθ' ἡμέραν βίον ἐκ σωφρονεστάτων καὶ μετριωτάτων φιλοπόται καὶ πολυτελεῖς γενόμενοι. (12.526f)

When they tasted the democracy of the Byzantines, they were ruined [*lacuna*] into luxury and, from being most measured and moderate in their daily lives, became drunkards and spendthrifts.

Unfortunately, διεφθάρησαν εἰς τρυφήν is not good Greek. A word (or words) governing the prepositional phrase has fallen out, and at a juncture of the text, moreover, whose correct interpretation is indispensable if we are to accept this passage as evidence on Theopompus' use of the idea of τρυφή. To see the difference a single word might make in this regard, it is only necessary to imagine, *exempli causa*, that the text once read διεφθάρησαν ἐξοκείλαντες εἰς τρυφήν (ἐξοκέλλω is, after all, used five times in Athenaeus to govern the phrase εἰς τρυφήν, while no other verb is used more than once). In this case, the expression, if not the thought, would belong to the excerptor and not the historian. Of course, we cannot insist that ἐξοκείλαντες is the correct restoration here, but we do insist that the passage cannot be used to control the plausibility of our evaluation of the Sybarite τρυφή stories, since it may exhibit the same characteristics we are trying to explain. This fragment must be set aside.⁷²

We have left to the last discussion of a passage that is, if one accepts the traditional interpretation, most pertinent to establishing the likelihood that τρυφή could have served in the period at issue to explain the destruction of Sybaris. Recall that the pathology of τρυφή at Sybaris is thought to have been of a very particular kind: prosperity led to luxury, which led to ὕβρις, which led to divine anger and destruction. In the most recent examination of the question, Bernhardt is quite insistent on what he sees as the oldest tradition on the fall of Sybaris: 'Der Frevel gegen die Götter sei eine Folge der Hybris, die Hybris eine Folge des Luxus und der Luxus eine Folge übermässigen Reichthums gewesen.'⁷³ We have tried to show that the evidence specifically about Sybaris which

⁷¹ Since the thrust of our argument aims to show how Athenaeus moulded his evidence to suit his purposes, we cannot assume that Athenaeus is here correctly representing Theopompus. It is possible that the historian gave τρυφή as a cause of the deaths of the two rulers, but that Athenaeus dropped this connection. The fact remains that we must begin our search for Theopompus' meaning with a correct interpretation of the fragment's context.

⁷² In fact, this is no great loss for our understanding of τρυφή as historical force, since even if we assume that the words and the thought are Theopompus', they would seem to have little historiographical significance. How did τρυφή ruin the people of Byzantium? It is possible to read the clause, ἐκ σωφρονεστάτων καὶ μετριωτάτων φιλοπόται καὶ πολυτελεῖς γενόμενοι, as epexegetis: it turned them into drunks, etc. In other words, the catastrophe referred to may be moral. No historical event need

then be cited to explain διεφθάρησαν. The verb is used similarly at 12.536e of Ptolemy Philadelphus, with a ruin that is strictly psychological: οὕτως ἐξαπατηθῆναι τὴν διάνοιαν καὶ διαφθαρῆναι ὑπὸ τῆς ἀκαίρου τρυφῆς ὥστε τὸν πάντα χρόνον ὑπολαβεῖν βίωσασθαι καὶ λέγειν ὅτι μόνος εὐροί τὴν ἀθανασίαν ('he was so deceived in his reasoning and destroyed by unsuitable luxury that he thought he would live forever and that he alone had discovered immortality'). Note that the οὕτως ... ὥστε construction, being one of Athenaeus' favourite ways of introducing an example of τρυφή, may indicate that he rather than Phylarchus, the named authority, is responsible for the wording here.

⁷³ Bernhardt (2003) 67. As we have noted, scholars consider this explanation 'Pythagorean'. This attribution is often supported by reference to Justin's epitome of Pompeius Trogus 4.1.2-6, 'Pythagoras ... Crotonam uenit pop-

Athenaeus has preserved does not support this view, but Bernhardt also adduces the case of Colophon; he considers the history of this city a strong parallel for the sequence luxury–*hybris*–destruction.

The key evidence is Athenaeus 12.526a-d, where that author quotes six verses of Xenophanes, perhaps the most well-known citizen of Archaic Colophon:

Κολοφώνιοι δ', ὡς φησι Φύλαρχος, τὴν ἀρχὴν ὄντες σκληροὶ ἐν ταῖς ἀγωγαῖς, ἐπεὶ εἰς τρυφὴν ἐξώκειλαν πρὸς Λυδοῦς φιλίαν καὶ συμμαχίαν ποιησάμενοι, προήεσαν διησκημένοι τὰς κόμας χρυσῶι κόσμωι, ὡς καὶ Ξενοφάνης φησίν·
 ἄβροσύνας δὲ μαθόντες ἀνωφελέας παρὰ Λυδῶν,
 ὄφρα τυραννίης ἦσαν ἄνευ στυγερῆς,
 ἦεσαν εἰς ἀγορὴν παναλουργέα φάρε' ἔχοντες,
 οὐ μείους ὡσπερ χίλιοι, εἰς ἐπίπαν
 αὐχαλέοι, χαίτησιν ἀγαλλόμεν' εὐπρεπέεσσιν
 ἀσκητοῖς ὀδμὴν κρίμασι δευόμενοι.

The Colophonians, as Phylarchus says, were originally severe in their training, but when they ran aground on luxury, having made an alliance of friendship with the Lydians, they used to go forth decked out with gold jewellery in their hair, as Xenophanes also says: 'Having learned useless luxuries from the Lydians, as long as they were without hateful tyranny, they would go to the agora wearing cloaks all of purple, no fewer than a thousand, for the most part, haughty, rejoicing in their fine tresses, drenched in oil artfully perfumed.'

There follows these lines an illustration of the Colophonians' propensity for strong drink, a description of a law regulating the working hours of flute-girls, a citation from Theopompus on the ancient price of purple and a concluding sentence summarizing the gist of the passage.

Since Bowra, scholars have accepted that this passage offers an early criticism of luxury based on political considerations.⁷⁴ However, this view is probably made untenable by the characteristics of Athenaeus' method of citation that we have discussed above. Once again, we must beg off a thorough treatment of the subject due to the constraints of space. The salient points are these: Bowra assumes that Phylarchus and Theopompus must have known more of the poem than the lines cited here and that their interpretations were drawn from that information which is lost to us.

We argue, on the contrary, that there are no details in this passage for which lost lines of Xenophanes provide the best explanation. The phrase εἰς τρυφὴν ἐξώκειλαν indicates that the introductory sentence is Athenaeus' own formulation, despite the mention of Phylarchus. This point is important when we see that Bowra takes the words of Phylarchus (as he believes) διησκημένοι τὰς κόμας χρυσῶι κόσμωι as evidence that the historian had access to lines now lost; after all, the Xenophanes as quoted does not mention gold. Of course, this line of reasoning collapses when we realize that the mode of expression belongs to Athenaeus, for the Deipnosophist has just quoted from Asius on the χρύσειαι κορύμβαι ('golden headpieces') and χαῖται ... χρυσεοῖς ἐν δεσμοῖς ('tresses in golden bands') worn by the ancient Samians. In this context, it is not surprising if Athenaeus understood the Colophonians' pleasure in their own χαίτησιν εὐπρεπέεσσιν in the same way.⁷⁵

ulumque in luxuriam lapsus auctoritate sua ad usum frugalitatis reuocauit. Laudabat cotidie uirtutem et uitia luxuriae casumque ciuitatum ea peste perditarum enumerabat ('Pythagoras came to Croton and by his authority recalled a people sunk in luxury to the practice of moderation. Every day he used to praise virtue and list the vices of luxury and the downfall of cities ruined by that plague'). However, there is no doubt that in Pompeius' own day (the last decades of the first century BC) *luxuria* could serve as an adequate explanation for *civi-*

tates perditae. Given this ready source of contamination, the passage is hardly strong evidence for the political theories of Pythagoras or his followers 500 years earlier.

⁷⁴ Bowra (1941).

⁷⁵ Everything else in this first sentence can come from the quoted Xenophanes and Athenaeus' own powers of interpretation. The Colophonians' original sternness might be inferred from the fact that their luxuries were learned and therefore secondary; cf. 4.141f, τὴν δὲ τῆς διαίτης τῆς τοιαύτης σκληρότητα ὕστερον καταλύσαντες οἱ

Bowra believes that the anecdote according to which some Colophonians were such drunkards that they saw neither sunrises nor sunsets ‘looks like a paraphrase of actual words of Xenophanes’, but the story certainly became a *topos* (Athenaeus tells it at 6.273c of Smindyrides and at 12.520a of the Sybarites in general), and could have been added by either Phylarchus or Athenaeus without recourse to Xenophanes.⁷⁶ The same source is likely for the νόμος concerning flute-girls.⁷⁷ Theopompus’ exegesis adds no significant information. The concluding sentence reports the destruction of Colophon because of stasis and tyranny – items not in the six lines of Xenophanes, but explanation is not difficult. Violence among citizens is a natural corollary of tyranny and thus a straightforward deduction from Xenophanes’ τυραννίη στρυγερή, an inference especially easy to make given the notoriety of Colophon’s subsequent ruin: the destruction of that city had provided an object lesson on the effects of ὕβρις from the time of Theognis.⁷⁸ If, then, Athenaeus 12.526a-d is the clearest evidence that can be mustered for the existence before the Hellenistic period of the idea that τρυφή begets ὕβρις,⁷⁹ that proposition is open to the strongest doubt.⁸⁰

5. CONCLUSIONS

In view of the state of the scholarly argument on the historiographical use of τρυφή, we feel that our position of scepticism is justified. In general, the place in Greek thought of τρυφή as an agent of historical change seems to have been quite limited before the beginning of the first century BC,

Λάκωνες ἐξώκειλαν εἰς τρυφήν (‘Later, doing away with the sternness of such a way of life, the Laconians ran aground on luxury’). Just as easily the alliance and friendship between the two peoples might be derived from the apparent relationship between teacher and student.

⁷⁶ Again the οὕτω ... ὥστε construction makes us lean toward Athenaeus: ἐξελύθησαν διὰ τὴν ἄκαιρον μέθην ὥστε τινὲς ... (‘they were so unstrung by disproportionate drunkenness that some ...’).

⁷⁷ Phylarchus is the authority for other Archaic legislative oddities at 12.521b-d.

⁷⁸ Theognis 1.1103-4, ὕβρις καὶ Μάγνητας ἀπόλεσε καὶ Κολοφῶνα | καὶ Σμύρνην (‘Hybris destroyed Magnesia and Colophon and Smyrna’). Even though the concluding sentence offers no additional insight into the thoughts of Xenophanes, we would like to know whether we should take these words as Theopompus’ interpretation or a summation by Athenaeus. If by Theopompus, this would be a singularly clear example of that author giving τρυφή as a cause of a significant historical event. In favour of an attribution to Athenaeus, however, is the re-occurrence here of ἀγωγή from the introductory sentence (where it is surely Athenaeus’ own wording, possibly suggested by Xenophanes’ μαθόντες) and the observation that Athenaeus is apt to end a τρυφή story with some such sentiment as ‘they were destroyed’: cf., e.g., 12.520c (12.18), εἶτα ... διεφθάρησαν (of the Sybarites, attached to the authority of Timaeus); 12.521e (12.21), πάντες ... ἀπόλωντο (Sybarites, Phylarchus); 12.521f (12.21), διεφθάρησαν ... ἅπαντες (Sybarites, Heracleides Ponticus); 12.526ef (12.32), ἅπαντες ... διεφθάρησαν (Byzantines, Theopompus); 12.531d (12.41), ἀμφοτέροι ... διεφθάρησαν (Straton and Nicocles, Theopompus). The matter requires a closer investigation.

⁷⁹ Bowra (1941) 124 sees in Xenophanes’ ἀυχαλῆοι (‘boastful, haughty’) an allusion to ‘a special form of

ὕβρις, ‘the arrogant display of wealth’. In his definitive study on ὕβρις, Fisher (1992), esp. 19-21, 71, 113-15, does agree that displays of wealth can be hybriotic, but only if they involve unfair seizure of property or unpitying injustice towards other people that brings shame and often violence upon those people. Simply spending money and wearing luxury items is not enough: someone must be dishonoured before an act can be classified as hybriotic. Clearly, there is no such act in the fragment of Xenophanes, which Fisher does not mention, and we cannot read ὕβρις into the luxury of the Colophonians on the basis of the superior attitude they adopted because of their dress. One may also note that there need be implied no causal relationship leading from ἀβροσύνη – with or without ὕβρις – to τυραννίη στρυγερή. Xenophanes may have meant to establish an antithesis between a time of luxurious living and the period of ‘hateful tyranny’ which followed.

⁸⁰ Frequently cited in support of this idea is Clearchus of Soli. Once again, what is taken to be the best evidence that Clearchus connected τρυφή and ὕβρις is transmitted by Athenaeus and is compromised in a way that will by now be familiar to the reader. For example, 12.524c-d (with similar cases at 12.522d and 12.523a): καὶ περὶ Σκυθῶν δ’ ἐξῆς ὁ Κλέαρχος τάδε ἱστορεῖ ... τρυφήσαντες δὲ καὶ μάλιστα δὴ καὶ πρῶτοι πάντων τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐπὶ τὸ τρυφᾶν ὀρμήσαντες εἰς τοῦτο προήλθον ὕβρεως ὥστε ... (‘Concerning the Scythians Clearchus goes on to write the following: ... indulging in luxury extremely and being the first of all peoples to set out eagerly after a luxurious life, they advanced to such a degree of insolence that ...’). In addition to the expression εἰς τοῦτο προήλθον ὕβρεως ὥστε, we note that ὀρμήσαντα ἐπὶ τρυφήν occurs at 7.281c, εἰς τρυφήν ὀρμήσαι at 12.533f (both presented as Athenaeus’ own words) and πρὸς ἡδυπαθείας καὶ τρυφᾶς ὄρμησε at 12.521e (attached to the authority of Theopompus). The

at least judged by the evidence usually brought forward. More narrowly, if Timaeus or Phylarchus did in fact explain that the fall of Sybaris was due to acts of ὕβρις arising from excessive τρυφή, they would be the earliest authors whom we know to make such a chain of cause and effect. The first occurrence in a direct transmission of evidence that τρυφή may lead to ὕβρις and then to dire consequences is Ps.-Scymnus 346-7, where the subject is, by coincidence, Sybaris: τρυφήν δὲ καὶ ῥάιθυμον ἐλομένους βίον | χρόνῳ προελθεῖν εἰς ὕβριν τε καὶ κόρον ('choosing luxury and a life of ease, in time they advanced into insolence and jadedness'). Given the ambiguities in Athenaeus' testimony which we have pointed out, it would be imprudent – perhaps even reckless – to attribute the origination of such a theory to one of these historians on the basis of material drawn from the *Deipnosophistae*.⁸¹

To summarize: our study of this topic has the following principal implications. (1) The Hellenistic tradition that the fall of Sybaris was an act of justice, in recompense for its τρυφή and ὕβρις, was anything but robust. Although Athenaeus' quotations of the testimony of Timaeus, especially, are frequently adduced to vouch for the strength of this tradition – and to justify a range of theories based on it – Athenaeus in fact supplies no reliably Hellenistic evidence explicitly connecting τρυφή and the destruction of the city.⁸² (2) The case of τρυφή is widely thought to be exemplary of the tendency among Hellenistic writers to explain historical events through moral causes. To the extent that it relies upon the evidence of Athenaeus, this view is seriously compromised. In every fragment we have examined, it is at least a strong possibility (and often demonstrable) that any formulation in which causative force is assigned to τρυφή is due not to the original authority, but to Athenaeus or an intermediary. To establish the relationship between this later formulation and the original text will require new investigations and fresh methods. (3) Detailed scrutiny of Athenaeus' discussion of τρυφή has revealed turns of phrase that can be identified as additions from the milieu of that author, even when he presents them as part of the quotation. We have no reason to be confident that we have noticed more than a small portion of such modes of expression or that their use is limited to Athenaeus' treatment of τρυφή or related subjects. A wide variety of modern views, if based on prose quotations by Athenaeus, may in fact rest not on good evidence but on the Procrustean interpretations of the Deipnosophist. In regard to each of these points, a full-scale study is clearly a *desideratum*.

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phraseology linking τρυφή and ὕβρις patently belongs to Athenaeus. About Clearchus' beliefs we can draw no firm conclusion.

⁸¹ One might also arrive at the same scepticism *vis-à-vis* τρυφή by considering the entire extant collection of fragments for the authors we have discussed in connection with Sybaris. For Timaeus, for example, no other fragments offer any better evidence for his interest in τρυφή than those already examined: F 1a and F 1b tell of naked girls serving at table among the Etruscans; Athenaeus considers this a mark of luxury when he cites it at 12.517d, but not at 4.153d, where it is an exotic dining custom. In F 26a Timaeus may have offered τρυφή as a factor in the fall of Acragas to the Carthaginians, but interpretation is dependent on establishing the relationship of Diodorus Siculus towards his sources; this is far too controversial a basis on which to build a theory of moral causation in Timaeus.

⁸² Leaving aside the passages transmitted by Athenaeus, there is little positive evidence on the fall of Sybaris before the first century BC. Herodotus, of course, speaks of the χλιδή of Smindyrides, and that Sybarite has

become a symbol of hedonism by Aristotle's day (*EE* 1216a17). Aristophanes speaks of 'Sybaritic feasts' and uses the word *συβαριάζειν* in a sympotic context (*Peace* 344). No connection is drawn between Sybarite luxury and the city's destruction. In fact, Aristotle knows a different tradition: *Pol.* 1303a24-33, οἷον Τροϊζηνίους Ἀχαιοὶ συνώκησαν Σύβαριν, εἶτα πλείους οἱ Ἀχαιοὶ γενόμενοι ἐξέβαλον τοὺς Τροϊζηνίους, ὅθεν τὸ ἄγος συνέβη τοῖς Συβαρίταις ('For example, the Achaeans colonized Sybaris jointly with the Troezenians and then, when the Achaeans grew more numerous, they expelled the Troezenians. From this the curse befell the Sybarites').

To be sure, Aristotle records a moral cause for the Sybarites' misfortune; hence the 'curse' that seems to refer to the events of 510 BC. However, Aristotle's version is out of harmony with the τρυφή stories, which set the unjust actions leading to divine punishment in the last decades of the sixth century, when the city's prosperity was great. For Aristotle, the cause is to be sought in circumstances of the city's foundation in the last years of the eighth century.

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