

Two Notes

By G. D. Gilmore, Bedford

1. Propertius 1, 6, 17

Osculaque opposito dicat sibi debita vento

Propertius is proposing to go to Athens and Asia with Tullus. Cynthia does not want him to go. The words are understood to mean that kisses will be owed to Cynthia by the winds (because they may be contrary when it is time for him to return), or that she has the winds to thank for them (because they are contrary now and he cannot set out). But can *oppositus* be used of a contrary wind? *Oppono* seems to contain very little of the idea of motion towards and the root meaning is to set down in front of, and so it is not likely to be used of the wind. True, *pono* may be used of the wind, but it means that the wind drops, and again there is no idea of motion. Perhaps the clue to the true meaning of the passage is to be found in Cat. 26:

*Furi, villula vestra non ad Austri / flatus opposita est ...,
verum ad milia quindecim et ducentos. / o ventum ...!*

Here the sense of *oppono* 'to pledge' or 'mortgage' is used to make a joke about face the wind and feel the draft; and in our passage Cynthia says that kisses will be due to her with the wind as security, by which I should say she means no security at all.

2. Petronius Satyricon 48, 7

Numquid ... tenes de Ulixæ fabulam, quemadmodum illi Cyclops pollicem poricino extorsit?

Trimalchio imagined that he had read the story in Homer when he was a boy, but the reference is not to be found there. There is a story all the same. In some versions of the folktale, which has spread all over Europe, the blind monster calls after the young man with the offer of a present and pulls a ring off his finger and throws it to him. It is a magic ring, and when the young man puts it on it calls out, Here I am; moreover it cannot be pulled off, and rather than let it guide the monster to him, he pulls out his sword and cuts off his thumb. The story must have been current in South Italy in Petronius' time¹. The corrupt form *poricino* must conceal *porclino*, an unattested diminutive of *porculus* (from

¹ See D. L. Page, *The Homeric Odyssey* (Oxford 1955) Cap. 1 and n. 15. See also Apollodorus, Appendix XIII (7) and (8) (Loeb), where two Italian versions are given, both with a form of the story of a ring that causes the hero to lose a finger.

porcus). *Porculus*² is explained by L and S as a hook in a vine or oil press, but the Editor of the Oxford Latin Dictionary tells me that the evidence is in favour of hoop, which would suit the Cyclops' ring very well. The translation, then, would be 'Do you remember the story of Ulysses, how the Cyclops got his thumb off him with a hoop-ring?' Of course there is no need to condemn *poricino*, which must come from somewhere, or to substitute *forcipe*, or to believe that the word might somehow mean pincers.

- 2 I am grateful to Mr. G. M. Lee for drawing my attention to this word, which, I must own, was not in my vocabulary. I have asked some cleaners if there is such a word as *porchino*, but, ignorant of Italian, cannot get a very clear account. It seems that it is a nearly obsolete word having to do with a child's hoop.

Index analytique des études pindariques de P. Von der Mühl

Par Alessandra Lienhard, Genève

La précieuse contribution de P. Von der Mühl aux études pindariques au travers de ses articles et ses «Pindarische Notizen» publiées dans *Museum Helveticum* n'a pas eu toujours l'écho qu'elle mérite auprès de ceux qui s'occupent de ce domaine: cela tient vraisemblablement à la dispersion de ces écrits sur un laps de temps de 15 ans (de 1954 à 1968).

Il est heureux que la publication actuelle des «Ausgewählte Kleine Schriften» de P. Von der Mühl (*Schweizerische Beiträge zur Altertumswissenschaft* 12, Bâle 1975) change notablement cette situation et permette aussi de mieux situer ces articles dans l'ensemble de la production de leur auteur. Toutefois, il fallait encore un index analytique qui permette de voir facilement si tel problème de critique du texte ou d'interprétation a été traité par l'éminent philologue bâlois et quelles sont les solutions proposées.

J'espère que cet index, que j'ai compilé à la suggestion d'André Hurst, pourra combler cette lacune. Il ne comprend que les passages et les mots qui font l'objet d'une discussion spécifique: j'ai laissé de côté ce qui est amené en guise de parallèle ou à l'appui d'une interprétation, ainsi que les points à propos desquels l'auteur apporte une suggestion sans traiter particulièrement le sujet. Il m'a semblé qu'un index comportant tous les passages cités n'aurait pas été utile pour la consultation de ces écrits et aurait été moins maniable.

La lecture des titres donnés aux «Notizen» par l'auteur lui-même pourra servir d'orientation à ceux qui s'intéressent à d'autres passages. Afin de rendre cet index utile à la fois pour les lecteurs du *Museum Helveticum* et pour ceux