

10. LATE HEXAMETERS

Bodleian Library
MS. Gr. class. g. 6 (P)
?

5 x 6.9 cm

Pl. X

5th cent. CE

The papyrus was purchased from A.H. Sayce in 1888. It bears writing on both sides: beginnings of hexameters on the → side (A), ends of hexameters on the ↓ (B). The hand on A is an informal specimen of the sloping pointed majuscule (cf. e.g. P.Oxy. XI 1371 = Cavallo – Maehler, *GB*, 16a). The hand on B is of the same general type, but smaller and faster, and with cursive features. Its size is not conclusive for the identification, since the writing may be compressed at the end of the line, but there are differences in letter forms such as λ and υ, though the *ductus* of ω is the same. This could be a fragment of an opisthograph single sheet with two different hexameter compositions or, less likely, a part of a codex leaf.

The initial letters are slightly enlarged. A *diple* is written in the margin opposite A 4; cf. A. Ricciardetto, *Critical and Utilitarian Sigla in the Adespota Greek Hexameter Texts on Papyri*, *TiC* 15.2 (2023), pp. 359–379: 367–368.

What survives on the → side points to a battle scene; Τυδ[at A 7 should refer to Tydeus or his son, i.e. Diomedes: this could be a poem related to the Theban saga or the Trojan war. The other side contains references to song or music (B 1, 2, 3, 6); there are several verbal affinities with late hexameter poetry.

I am grateful to Dr W.B. Henry for comments and criticism.

A (→)

	παλλομενω[	παλλομένω[
	ουδεμαχην[	οὐδὲ μάχην [
	δειμ . . ω . [	δειμαίνω . [
>	τευχεαταυτ[	τεύχεα ταῦτ[α
5	τοιαθεωνβ[	τοῖα θεῶν β[
	τοιαδεκ . . φ[	τοῖα δὲ καὶ φ[
	τυδ . [	Τυδ . [
	ου[	ου[
	].[	].[
	— — — — —	— — — — —

B (↓)

	]οκοιμης	]οc οἴμης
	] . ιωης	] . ιωῆς
	]γυφω . οcαιειςη	λι]γύφωγoc ἀείςη
	]εις . [. .] . . .	
5	]πλετομονοc	ξ]πλετο μονοc
	]μνοπολευειν	ὕ]μνοπολεύειν
	] . ογενεθλης	] . ο γενέθλης
	] . c	] . c
	- - - - -	- - - - -

A 3 . . . : letter feet: rising oblique; upright slightly below line-level; upright, followed by a hole and possibly a high trace on the edge of the break] . : lower part of upright slanting to the right **6** . . : indeterminate high traces **7** . : speck high in the line **9**] . : top of rising oblique or curve, perhaps part of an enlarged initial o or θ

B 2] . : right-hand tip of high horizontal **3**]ω . ο : foot of upright followed by gap and an upright **4** . : foot of ε or c] . . . : top of stroke; upright slanting to the right; low traces followed by lower part of descending oblique **7**] . : top of upright with horizontal to the right **8**] . : top of upright

A (→)

1. παλλομένω[ν or παλλομένω. παλλομένων is the first word in the hexameter in *Il.* 15.191 and Nonn., *D.* 42.11.

2. οὐδὲ μάχην : οὐδὲ μάχης begins Nonn., *D.* 22.354, 29.175, 35.141.

3. δειμαίνω . [or δειμαίνων . [. The word in this metrical position is common in late poetry, though there are some earlier parallels.

4. τεύχεα ταῦτ[α : The collocation is also found in Nonn., *D.* 25.337, 37.773, 46.89, and *AP* 9.460.1, but its position is always after the first *metron*.

5. τοῖα θεῶν β[ακύλ- (cf. Hes., *Th.* 886 and 897, *Ap. Rh.*, 4.558) or β[ουλ- (cf. Hes., *Th.* 960, *Mimn.*, 9.6).

6. τοῖα δὲ καὶ begins Opp., *Hal.* 4.630 and Ps.-Man., 2.480.

7. Τυδ[: a form of Τυδεύς or Τυδείδης.

B (↓)

1. οἴμης occurs in the same metrical position in Opp., *Hal.* 3.28, QS., 7.320, *AP* 4.1.17; cf. 'Apollinar.', *Met. Ps.* II 30.2 and 119.2.

2. ιωῆς or ιωῆς. A fairly common *clausula*.

3. λι]γύφωγoc ἀείςη : See e.g. *AP* 9.363.16 λιγύφωγον ἀείδει or Orph., *Arg.* 5 λιγύφωγον ἀοιδήν. ἀείςη(c) occurs at verse-end in Callim., *H.* 4.7, Theoc., 1.23, 61, [Opp.], *Cyn.* 1.29; ἀείc- in the same *sedes* is common in 'Apollinar.', *Met. Ps.* (A transcript by E. Lobel, kept at the Bodleian Library, helped me to improve my reading of this line.)

5. ἔ]πλετο μῶνός : Fournet on P.Aphrod.Lit. IV 10.31 gives parallels from late poetry; see already Emp., fr. 134.11 K ἔπλετο μῶνον.

6. ὑ]μνοπολεύειν : The verb found favour with late antique authors; see Fournet on P.Aphrod. Lit. IV 5.13, and cf. Perale, *APHex* I, p. 364. For the metrical position, see 'Apollinar.', *Met. Ps. passim* (-εύω), P.Aphrod.Lit. IV 11.29 and 18.35 (-εύειν), and especially P.Lond. Lit. 38 = *APHex* I 39.2 (ὑμνοπολεύειν), where the previous line ends γενέθλη (cf. next line here).

7.]ο γενέθλης : -ο]ιο is well paralleled in this position and is partly compatible with the traces, but the high horizontal to the right of the vertical stroke is confusing; it can hardly be π, which would create problems with the metre. γενέθλης is very often found at line end, not least in 'Apollinar.', *Met. Ps.*

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