A New Graffito from Ephesus

Miroslav Marcovich

During the Austrian excavations at Bülbül Dağ (the ancient Ephesus) in 1970 a Greek wall graffito was discovered in a house (late II century). Its text, as published by Werner Jobst, runs as follows:

"Ω Εὐλαλι χαίρε· θεοῖς
πεποθήμενον
ονόμα σεμνόν· εἰς ζής
ε[ὐ] εἰ καὶ βιοκ. Αὔξανότω

πάςω γὰρ φιλίαν παρέχεις
ἀγαβαίει προνοίας δώρα
καὶ εὐφροσύνας ἥς ἔχεις
ἀμβροσίης.

We do not know how the editor understands this text, for he gives no translation of the inscription; but so far it seems to be clear that he sees in the graffito a dedication (Weihung) to the god Apollo (p. 244): "Dass auch in unserer Inschrift mit Εὐλαλος Απollon angesprochen sein kann, legt der Inhalt des Textes nahe."

I would challenge this conclusion, however, while seeing in the inscription a late antique complimentary epigram, addressed to a mortal Eulalius. Accordingly, I would suggest the following reading of the graffito:

{"Ω} Εὐλαλι χαίρε, θεοῖς πεποθημένον ονόμα σεμνόν.
αιεί ζῆ[ε], ε′ αἰεί καὶ βιοκ αὔξανότω.
Πάςω γὰρ φιλίαν παρέχεις ἀγαβαίει προνοίας
δώρα καὶ εὐφροσύνης ή ε′ ἔχει[ε] ἀμβροσίης.

"Hail to you, Eulalius, a noble name desirable to the gods!
May you ever live, and may the lifetime always exalt you!

1 I am indebted to Professors Alexander Turyń (Urbana) and Hugh Lloyd-Jones (Oxford) for kindly having read this note and made a few remarks. Of course, any possible mistake is mine only.

For you offer your friendship with good care to all men
Together with the gifts of the divine good cheer of yours.”

**COMMENTARY**

**LINE 1.** Most probably, ἄ is superfluous, hardly to be taken as a
synizesis, as, e.g., in Callim. fr.191.28 (Pfeiffer) ἄ Εκάτη and 47 ἄ ἐμαί.

Εὐλάλις is, I think, a vocative of Εὐλάλις, i.e. Εὐλάλιεις. (a) The latter
is well established in late antiquity as a proper name. Cf. CIG II
2647.6 Εὐλαλίας at the beginning of a pantameter; Anth.Gr. 8.151.3
(Gregory of Nazianzus on his cousin Eulalius); Phot. Bibl. 18a1
(Bekker)=I p.53 (R. Henry). (b) The change -ος > -ις seems to go
back to the middle of the third century B.C. Consequently, Εὐλάλις for
Εὐλάλιας follows the pattern of Αμμωνάρις, Ἀπολλώνις, Πολεμάκης,
Νομῆμας, etc. (c) As for the vocative of Εὐλάλις, A. Wilhelm4 added
eight examples from the inscriptions: Ἀλύς, Γυμνάς, Εὐγένις, Ἡμέρις,
Κτίτης, Πηγάς, Πικίδι, Υπερέχη. To these D. J. Georgacas has added six
more examples: Ἀπολλώην, Ἀφροδίς, Γιώργης, Δημήτρις, Διονύσις, Εὐσύχη.5

Jobst, however, takes Εὐλαλις to stand for Εὐλαλε, while interpreting
it as an epithet of Apollo, with reference to Anth.Gr. 9.525.6. This is
not likely for the following reasons: (a) Anth.Gr. 9.525 is no more than
a late antique Spielerei without real religious value: in 24 lines no less
than 96 epithets of Apollo are produced (four in each line) in alphabetic
order.6 A simple comparison of these epithets with C. F. H.
Bruchmann’s Epitheta deorum shows that most of them are elsewhere
unknown as applied to Apollo. And (b) εὐλαλος is not as rare in Greek
literature as Jobst takes it to be, being misled by LSJ s.v. We find it
also in Anth.Gr. 5.148 and 155 (Meleager, Epigr. 47 and 48=4242 and
4244 [Gow-Page]; 9.570.2 (Philodemus, Epigr. 14=3241 [G.-P.]);
9.229.2 (Marcus Argentarius, Epigr. 24=1428 [G.-P.]).

πεποθημένον: cf. Hymn. Orph. 81.3 (Quandt) πεποθημέναι ὄρμοις
(sc. αὐραί); 46.2; 33.8.

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1 Cf. E. Schwzyzer, Griechische Grammatik, I (Munich 1939) 472, with literature; E. Mayser,
Grammatik der griech. Papyri I.2 (Berlin 1938) 15f; E. Nachmanson, Laute und Formen der
magnetischen Inschriften (Uppsala 1903) 125; S. B. Psaltes, Grammatik der byzantinischen Chro-
niken (Göttingen 1913) 43ff; and especially D. J. Georgacas, “On the Nominal Endings -ος, -ω
in Later Greek,” CP 43 (1948) 213–60.

2 A. Wilhelm, in WS 24 (1902) 596–600.

3 Georgacas, op.cit. (supra n.3) 243 n.1 and 249.

4 Cf. H. Stadtmüller ad Anth.Gr. 9.524, and A. Dieterich, “ABC-Denkämère,” RhMus 56
(1901) 94.
LINE 2. ἐει for αἴει (twice): the change αα > ε seems to go back to the fourth century B.C.⁷ c': cε being elided, though emphatic, can be paralleled by Soph. ΟC 800f πότερα νομίζεις δυστυχεῖν ἐμ' ἐς τά σά, | ἦ c' ἐς τά σαντοῦ μᾶλλον . . . ; ΟΤ 64 ψυχή πόλιν τε κάμε καὶ c' ὁμοῦ στένει. 332 ἐγώ οὔτ' ἐμαυτὸν οὔτε c' ἀλγυνό. Eur. Τρο. 945 οὖ c', ἄλλ' ἐμαυτήν.⁸ As for the hyperbaton of cέ, cf. Eur. Μεδ. 759f ἀλλά c' ὁ Μαίας πομπαῖος ἀναξ | πελάειε δόμοις. Rhes. 216f; Αλc. 743f πρόφρων c' ἀθόνως θ' Ἐρμῆς | "Αἰδης τε δέχοιτ'. Ανδr. 122, 517f.

LINE 4. ἀμβροσύς: v for i is common enough.⁹

University of Illinois
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⁹ Cf. Mayser/Schmoll, op.cit. (supra n.7) I.1.80ff.