

A New *Graffito* from Ephesus

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DURING the Austrian excavations at Bülbül Dağ (the ancient Ephesus) in 1970 a Greek wall *graffito* was discovered in a house (late II century).¹ Its text, as published by Werner Jobst,² runs as follows:

ᾠ Εὐλάλι χαίρε· θεοῖς
πεποθήμενον
οὐνομα σεμνόν· εἰ ζῆς
ε[ὐ] εἰ καὶ βίος. Αὐξανέτω
5 πᾶσιν γὰρ φιλίαν παρέχεις
ἀγαθαῖσι προνοίαις δῶρα
καὶ εὐφροσύνας ἧς ἔχεις
ἀμβροσύης.

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 *Εὐλάλιος* Apollon 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*:

{ᾠ} Εὐλάλι χαίρε, θεοῖς πεποθήμενον οὐνομα σεμνόν·
αἰεὶ ζῆς}, ε' αἰεὶ καὶ βίος αὐξανέτω.
Πᾶσιν γὰρ φιλίαν παρέχεις ἀγαθαῖσι προνοίαις
δῶρα καὶ εὐφροσύνης ἧ ε' ἔχεις} ἀμβροσύης.

“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 Turyn (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.

² W. Jobst, “Griechische Wandinschriften aus dem Hanghaus II in Ephesos,” *WS* 85 (1972) 240–45 (Abbildung 2).

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, ω is superfluous, hardly to be taken as a synzesis, as, e.g., in Callim. fr.191.28 (Pfeiffer) ω 'Εκάτη and 47 ω ἐμαί.

Εὐλάλι is, I think, a vocative of *Εὐλάλις*, i.e. *Εὐλάλιος*. (a) The latter is well established in late antiquity as a proper name. Cf. *CIG* II 2647.6 *Εὐλάλιος* at the beginning of a pentameter; *Anth.Gr.* 8.151.3 (Gregory of Nazianzus on his cousin Eulalius); Phot. *Bibl.* 18a1 (Bekker)=I p.53 (R. Henry). (b) The change *-ιος* > *-ις* seems to go back to the middle of the third century B.C. Consequently, *Εὐλάλις* for *Εὐλάλιος* follows the pattern of 'Αμμωνᾶρις, 'Απολλῶνις, Πτολεμαῖς, Νουμῆνις, etc.³ (c) As for the vocative of *Εὐλάλις*, A. Wilhelm⁴ adduced eight examples from the inscriptions: 'Αλύπι, Γυμνάσι, Εὐγένι, 'Ημέρι, Κτίστι, Πηγάσι, Πικίδι, 'Υπερέχι. To these D. J. Georgacas has added six more examples: 'Απολλώνι, 'Αφροδίσι, Γιώργι, Δημήτρι, Διονύσι, Εὐτύχι.⁵

Jobst, however, takes *Εὐλαλι* 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 alphabetical 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) *πεποθημένοι ὄρμοις* (*sc. ἀῤραι*); 46.2; 33.8.

³ Cf. E. Schwyzer, *Griechische Grammatik*, I (Munich 1939) 472, with literature; E. Mayser, *Grammatik der griech. Papyri*² I.2 (Berlin 1938) 15f; E. Nachmanson, *Laute und Formen der magnetischen Inschriften* (Uppsala 1903) 125; S. B. Psaltes, *Grammatik der byzantinischen Chroniken* (Göttingen 1913) 43ff; and especially D. J. Georgacas, "On the Nominal Endings *-ις*, *-ιν* in Later Greek," *CP* 43 (1948) 213–60.

⁴ A. Wilhelm, in *WS* 24 (1902) 596–600.

⁵ Georgacas, *op.cit.* (*supra* n.3) 243 n.1 and 249.

⁶ Cf. H. Stadtmüller *ad Anth.Gr.* 9.524, and A. Dieterich, "ABC-Denkmaeler," *RhMus* 56 (1901) 94.

LINE 2. $\epsilon\acute{\iota}$ for $\alpha\acute{\iota}\epsilon\acute{\iota}$ (twice): the change $\alpha\iota > \epsilon$ seems to go back to the fourth century B.C.⁷ ϵ' : $\epsilon\acute{\epsilon}$ being elided, though emphatic, can be paralleled by Soph. OC 800f $\acute{\rho}\acute{\omicron}\tau\epsilon\rho\alpha \nu\omicron\mu\acute{\iota}\zeta\epsilon\iota\varsigma \delta\upsilon\varsigma\tau\upsilon\chi\epsilon\acute{\iota}\nu \acute{\epsilon}\mu' \acute{\epsilon}\varsigma \tau\acute{\alpha} \kappa\acute{\alpha}, | \acute{\eta} \epsilon' \acute{\epsilon}\varsigma \tau\acute{\alpha} \kappa\alpha\upsilon\tau\omicron\upsilon \mu\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\omicron\nu . . .$; OT 64 $\psi\upsilon\chi\acute{\eta} \acute{\rho}\acute{\omicron}\lambda\iota\nu \tau\epsilon \kappa\acute{\alpha}\mu\acute{\epsilon} \kappa\alpha\acute{\iota} \epsilon' \acute{\omicron}\mu\omicron\upsilon \varsigma\tau\acute{\epsilon}\nu\epsilon\iota$. 332 $\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\acute{\omega} \omicron\upsilon\tau' \acute{\epsilon}\mu\alpha\upsilon\tau\omicron\nu \omicron\upsilon\tau\epsilon \epsilon' \acute{\alpha}\lambda\gamma\upsilon\nu\acute{\omega}$. Eur. *Trö.* 945 $\omicron\upsilon \epsilon', \acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda' \acute{\epsilon}\mu\alpha\upsilon\tau\acute{\eta}\nu$.⁸ As for the hyperbaton of $\epsilon\acute{\epsilon}$, cf. Eur. *Med.* 759f $\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\acute{\alpha} \epsilon' \acute{\omicron} \text{Μαίας πομπαῖος ἄναξ} | \text{πελάσειε δόμοις}$. *Rhes.* 216f; *Alc.* 743f $\acute{\rho}\acute{\omicron}\phi\acute{\rho}\omega\nu \epsilon\acute{\epsilon} \chi\theta\acute{\omicron}\nu\acute{\iota}\acute{\omicron}\varsigma \theta' \acute{\epsilon}\rho\mu\acute{\eta}\varsigma | \text{Ἄιδης τε δέχοιτ'}$. *Andr.* 122, 517f.

LINE 4. $\acute{\alpha}\mu\beta\rho\omicron\varsigma\acute{\upsilon}\eta\varsigma$: υ for ι is common enough.⁹

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⁷ Cf. Schwyzler, *op.cit.* (*supra* n.3) I.233; E. Mayser/H. Schmoll, *Grammatik der griech. Papyri* I.1 (Berlin 1970) 85f.

⁸ Cf. I. Bekker, *Homerische Blätter* II (Bonn 1872) 229–31.

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