

ARCTOS

ACTA PHILOLOGICA FENNICA

VOL. XXIX

1995

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NOTES ON MARIUS' *DE ELEMENTIS*

BENGT LÖFSTEDT

Richard C. Dales published a critical edition and translation of Marius' work *De elementis* in 1976 (University of California Press). He dates it to the decade of the 1160s, but J. Beaumont, *Medium Aevum* 48 (1979) 116 has proved that it is from the 1140s or even earlier. It has been transmitted in only one manuscript (British Library Cotton Galba E. IV) from ca. 1200.

I have seen only two reviews of Dales' edition (by Beaumont in *Medium Aevum*, and one by J. Cadden, *Isis* 70, 1979, 302 ff.), and neither of these reviewers offers any improvements to text or translation. There is, however, room for improvement.

p. 47,6 f. *licet aquam calefaceris ad fervorem: calefeceris* (misprint?).

53,3 *patit igitur aerem esse humidum: patet* (misprint, I hope).

65,22 ff. *Sicut aqua cum usque adeo frigescit quod congelatur. sane unum quid quod idem est terre efficitur glacies, videlicet frigida et sicca, et meatum sustinet hominum sicut terra*; Dales translates: "Just as water congeals when it is cooled to a certain point, indeed that which it has in common with earth, namely cold and dryness, turns it into ice, and it sustains the passage of men just as earth does". I suggest rather the following punctuation and translation: *Sicut aqua cum usque adeo frigescit, quod congelatur, sane unum quid, quod idem est terre, efficitur, glacies videlicet frigida et sicca...*; "Just as water when it gets so cold that it congeals becomes the same as earth, namely cold and dry ice...", (for the construction of *idem* with dative, see ThLL 7:1,199,83 ff.; in my opinion the construction of *similis* and *par* with dative has influenced that of *idem* with dative). For *unum quid*, cf. below on 93,3 ff.

79,10 ff. *Cui si superveniente calore frigiditas omnino peribit; humiditas autem remanebit, procul dubio aer erit*: there should be a comma instead of a semicolon after *peribit*.

81,16 ff. *De calore quidem et motu sufficit, quare de alia parte iam aperi, quoniam modo videlicet frigescat substantia cum quiescit*; Dales translates: "This is sufficient concerning heat and motion; and so the other question – how substance becomes cold when it is at rest – is now clear". I fail to understand how *aperi* can mean "is clear". There should be a period after *sufficit*, and *aperi* is an imperative; I translate: "...Therefore explain about the other question, namely how substance becomes cold when it is at rest".

93,3 ff. *Si particulas illius unde investitur substantia unamquamque per se secundum V sensus consideres easque etiam sicut abeuntes et advenientes, non quidem substantiam iure poteris appellare. Cum vero simul omnes uno ictu cogitabis et numquid illas efficere quod per se intelligi valeat ratione, substantiam poteris dicere, testante Aristotile. Qui omne inquit quod potest cogitari per se, ita quod in cogitatione corruptionis non sit susceptibile, esse substantiam necesse est*. Dales: "...But when you consider them all together at the same time and whether they produce what can be understood in itself by reason, you will be able to call them substance..." But *numquid* is a conjunction which should govern a clause in the subjunctive, and there is none. I emend *numquid* to *unum quid* 'something'; cf. p. 91,21 ff. *Cogita modo particulas quibus forma ignis confecta fuit; cogita, inquam, illas omnes simul quasi unum quid illiusque predictam substantiam, ratione quidem tantum comprehensibilem, uno ictu investiri*. In our aforementioned passage *cogitabis* governs a direct object, *omnes*, and an accusative with infinitive, *illas efficere*: "When you consider them all together at the same time and that they produce something which can be understood in itself by reason..." For *unum quid*, cf. also above on 65,22 ff.

131,15 Write *pinguedine* instead of *piguedine* (misprint).

137,9 ff. *Et nosti tu quia de terra macerata cum aqua fit urceus ille; et cum in eo funditur aurum vel argentum semel et iterum ac multa vice, vidisti quia soleat quandoque virescere et fieri perlucidum, quasi vitrum, atque ultra visum recipere?*; Dales: "And do you know that the pot is made of earth ground up with water; and when gold or silver is cast in it time and again and many times over, have you seen that at some point it usually expands and also becomes transparent like glass and can hardly be seen?" In a note Dales adds: "*virescere* literally means 'to turn green'; a derivative meaning is 'flourish, grow'. In view of what would actually happen to the pot, I have taken some liberty and translated it 'expand'". Professor Dales seems to have had some unusual experiences with earthen pots: when he casts sil-

ver or gold into them, they first expand and then they disappear. My friend Donna Kriger suggests *vitrescere* instead of *virescere*; the word *vitrescere* is listed by A. Bartal, *Glossarium mediae et infimae Latinitatis regni Hungariae*, in the sense of *incrustare*, which makes perfect sense here. The expression *visum recipere* probably means 'reflect what is seen' (like a mirror).

27 ff. *tempore hiemali calide in puteis inveniuntur aque respectu frigiditatis quam habent in estate*; Dales: "in the winter the water in wells is warm with respect to the coldness they have in summer". The expression *respectu frigiditatis* means rather "in comparison with".

143,11 *...et partes universas eius arce (vel arte) comprimant*; in a note Dales remarks: "*arte* is given by the scribe as an alternate spelling for *arce* 'tightly'". *Arce* and *arte* are, however, not different spellings of one word but different words, and only *arte* makes sense in the context. The letters *c* and *t* are similar in Gothic script and the scribe was not sure how to read his exemplar.

147,7 ff. *intelligas volo quod cum elementa IIII^{or} corpus aliquod componunt, nullum illorum in corpore composito actu invenitur nisi potentia dum taxat*; Dales: "I wish you to understand that when the four elements make up any body, none of them is found actually in the composite body except insofar as it is there potentially". *Dum taxat* is the same as *tantum*, and the last words mean: "but only potentially".

153,10 *admodum terre*; 'as earth'. One ought to print *ad modum* in two words in the sense of 'as', since there is an adverb *admodum* 'rather'.

155,10 ff. *Cuprum autem factum est ex vivo argento non bene claro mixto cum sulphure rubeo multum turpitudine et aliquantulum spisso*; the word *turpitudine* is obviously wrong and should be corrected to *turbido* (Donna Kriger).

The edition does not have any word index. Therefore I list here some rare words: *crescibilis* and *decrecibilis* 175,6 (1 instance of *crescibilis* in the ThLL). – *retentivus* 161,30 (listed in Latham, Revised Medieval Latin Word-List and in Ducange, *Glossarium Mediae et Infimae Latinitatis*). – *viridalis anima* 163,29. – Fem. *lebes* occurs 49,11 ff. 1 example in F. Blatt, *Novum Glossarium mediae Latinitatis*; cf. *lebeta*.