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Six Notes on Q. Curtius

W.S. Watt

The following editions are referred to: H. Snakenburg (Delft 1724; with notes of N. Heinsius); C.T. Zumpt (Braunschweig 1849); T. Vogel (Leipzig 1880); K. Müller (München 1954).

4,6,9 igitur ab ea parte quam oppidani conspicere non possent opus orsus, ut a sensu eius averteret, turrets muris admoveri iubet.

The siege of Gaza: Alexander tries to divert the attention of the inhabitants from his tunnelling operations.

No doubt it is possible to supply *oppidanos* as the object of *averteteret*, but I suspect that *animos* should be inserted before *averteteret*, where its loss would be easy. For *animos avertere* cf. TLL 2, 1320, 9ff.; the phrase is particularly frequent in Livy.

5,1,42 idem Amyntas adduxerat L principum Macedoniae liberos adultos ad custodiam corporis; quippe inter epulas hi sunt regis ministri idemque equos ineuntibus proelium admovent venantesque comitantur.

The change from the singular *regis* to the plurals *ineuntibus* and *venantes* has been defended (e.g. by Zumpt) on the ground that Alexander was not the only or the first king of Macedonia to employ these young men on such duties; it was apparently an old custom, and the plurals include Alexander's predecessors on the throne. Most of the modern editors, however, have adopted Vogel's emendation *regibus*; parallels for the assumed corruption are listed by Müller on

p. 789. Against it, on the other hand, is the fact that nowhere else does Curtius have a certain example of *minister* construed with a dative; he has six examples of a genitive (including *saevitiae* at 10,1,8, which I take to be a genitive). I therefore suggest that *regii* would be a preferable change; the adjective is used by Curtius three times elsewhere (likewise preceding its noun) to designate these same young men: 5,2,13 *unus ex regiiis pueris*; 8,6,7 *puer nobilis ex regia cohorte*; 10,7,16 *puerorum regia cohors*.

In Snakenburg's edition Heinsius is stated to have proposed *regi*; I believe that this is a misprint (which has been reproduced in later editions) for *regii*.

6,9,6f. *fremitus undique indignantium querentiumque tota contione obstrepebat ...; Nicomachus deinde et Metron et Cebalinus producti quae quisque detulerat exponunt. nullius eorum indicio Philotas ut particeps sceleris destinabatur; itaque indignatione expressa vox indicum silentio excepta est.*

Alexander's disclosure of a plot against his life was greeted with cries of indignation from his assembled soldiers. Then three informers were produced, none of whom implicated Philotas.

"The evidence of the informers was not forced out of them by the indignation of the soldiers; they had given it already. ... The meaning is that the outcry which followed Alexander's speech was succeeded (*excepta*) by silence." So D.R. Shackleton Bailey, CR 31 (1981) 177f. Since *vox indicum* does not make sense, *indicum* must either be deleted as a misguided gloss (so Vogel, followed by Müller) or emended. As a possible emendation I suggest *militum*, which is palaeographically good (*m* and *in* are almost identical; so too are *il* and *d*; and *t/c* is the commonest of all interchanges); and the corruption has clearly been helped by the context (*indicio* just above). With Heinsius, I compare 9,3,1 *ne sic quidem ulli militum vox exprimi potuit*; 9,3,6 *non fictas tuorum militum voces verum necessitate ultima expressas*.

7,6,20 *statuerat autem [sc. Alexander] parcere urbi conditae a Cyro; quippe non alium gentium illarum magis admiratus est quam hunc regem et Semiramin, quos et magnitudine animi et claritate rerum longe emicuisse credebat.*

Curtius uses *emicare* three times elsewhere: 8,2,26, of *tela* (for the reading here see Müller's note on p. 749); 8,4,3, of *fulgura*; 9,5,10, of blood 'spurting out'. Nowhere else does he use it in the sense of 'excel'; not surprisingly, because this is a very rare sense in pre-Apuleian Latin (TLL 5,2,487,7 and 25 adduces only two instances). I would read *eminuisse*, a verb of which (in its various senses) Curtius is very fond; for the confusion of the two words see TLL ib. 483,50.

8,9,30 *feminae epulas parant; ab isdem vinum ministratur, cuius omnibus Indis largus est usus. regem mero somnoque sopitum in cubiculum paelices referunt patrio carmine noctium invocantes deos.*

The plural *noctium* is odd. Should we read *noctis*, on the supposition that the ending has been influenced by the beginning of *invocantes*?

8,10,18 *eadem felicitas ab Oceano revertentes temulentos comissantesque inter ora hostium textit.*

The good fortune of Alexander's army in not being attacked on its drunken return from the Ocean.

The only parallel for the phrase *inter ora* given by TLL 9,2,1086,70ff. is Verg. Aen. 2,681 *manus inter maestorumque ora parentum*. This is a description of the child Iulus being held by his mother up to his father, so that he is 'between the hands and faces of his parents'; it lends no support to the phrase in our passage. Perhaps *inter ora* should be changed to the common phrase *ante ora* (cf. TLL ib. 1087,18ff.).