CALLIMACHUS’ COMA BERENICES (CATULLUS LXVI, 57—8)

[αυτή Coppola] μιν Ζεφυρίτις επί χρέο[ς...  
.... Κ]ανωπίτου ναϊτης α[ίγιαλου Vitelli]

ipsa suum Zephyritis eo famulum legarat
Graia Canopitis incola litoribus.

Pfeiffer fills the gap with ἤκεν έκεΐνο/Φθία. He rejects Vitelli’s Γραία, but his own Φθία is open to objection².

I have long wanted to read ὤπασεν Ἔλλην/τοῖο. The verb οπάζω might conceivably have suggested Catullus’ famulum (though he puts the idea to different use in the context). Much nearer to Catullus would be Ἔλλας ὀπηδόν/πέμψε (this last word is another of Pfeiffer’s proposals). Each of my alternative restorations, in the form given above, would mean: „Zephyritis herself (had) sent him as my attendant (i. e. escort) for the purpose“. Catullus, however, might have construed: „sent him, her attendant“ (ὀπηδόν in apposition instead of being predicative).

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1 I have not seen even a photograph of the papyrus, but I gather that a word of either 4 or 5 letters could stand here.


3 Or keep Pfeiffer’s ἤκεν and continue with Ἀχαιίς.

4 For Ἔλλας, Ἐλλην as feminine adjectives see Liddell — Scott — Jones. These rarities, together with Ἀχαιίς, must find their justification in the need to provide an equivalent for Graia.

5 Or — 4 letters — δώρε.