

***Hermann's Bridge before Hermann:  
on the metrical practice of Lorenz Rhodoman (and others)***

- [1] Hermann's Bridge: word-break after the first short syllable of the fourth foot, i.e. the 'fourth trochee', is avoided.

See e.g. *Il.* 6.2 πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθ' ἴθυσε | μάχη πεδίοιο

• G. Hermann, *Orphica*, Lipsiae 1805, 692-696.

• "Exceptions about once in 550 lines in Homer", i.e. 0,18% (M. L. West, *Greek Metre*, Oxford 1982, 38 n. 18); "in Omero 66 casi", i.e. 0,24% (M. Cantilena, *Il ponte di Nicanore*, in M. Fantuzzi - R. Pretagostini [eds.], *Struttura e storia dell'esametro greco* I, Roma 1995, 40).

- [2] Early 20th-century polemics: "A prize version in the *Saturday Westminster Gazette* of December 24 (26), 1914, was accorded especial praise, and received the honour of being reprinted in the Educational Supplement of *The Times* of January 5, 1915. One of the hexameters in it ended παρὰ σοῖσι πόδεσσι βάλοιμι, and this, as well as a line ending πάροιθεν ἐγεύσαο κρήνης in an introductory poem to the *Essays and Studies presented to William Ridgeway* (Cambridge, 1913), make it possible to doubt whether [...] scholars realise the *extreme* rarity of such a break—so common and elegant in Latin, *modulatur amabile carmen*—in the Greek hexameter, particularly in Elegiacs" (S. Gaselee, *Greek Elegiacs. The Break after a Trochee in the Fourth Foot of the Hexameter*, "CR" 29, 1915, 48).

- [3] In Latin: see P. E. Knox, *Ovid's Metamorphoses and the Traditions of Augustan Poetry*, Cambridge 1986, 84-87

- [4] Analyzed texts

Filelfo, *Psych.* = Francesco Filelfo (1398-1481): G. Cortassa - E. V. Maltese, *Francesco Filelfo. De psychagogia*, Alessandria 1997

Poliziano, *Epigr.* = Angelo Poliziano (1454-1494): F. Pontani, *Angeli Politiani liber epigrammatum Graecorum*, Roma 2002

Châtillon, *Prodr.* = Sebastian Châtillon (Castellio: 1515-1563): *Ionas Propheta, heroico carmine Latino descriptus. Item, Πρόδρομος, sive Praecursor, id est, vita Ioannis Baptistae, Graeco carmine heroico reddita, libris III*, Basileae 1545

Scaliger = Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540-1609): *Poemata omnia*, ex Museo P. Scriverii, Berolini 1864<sup>2</sup>

*Propria* = *Silva variorum carminum, Encomia librorum, Funebria*

*Vers. sel.* = Greek translations from Catullus, Vergil, and Propertius

*Moretum* = Greek translation of the *Moretum* (from the *Appendix Vergiliana*)

*Mart.* = Greek translation of a fair number of Martial's epigrams

*Dist. Cat.* = Greek translation of the *Disticha Catonis*

Rhodoman, *Ilf. Herc.* = K. Volckmar, *Laurentius Rhodomann's Lobgedicht auf Ilfeld*, Programm des Königlichen Pädagogiums zu Ilfeld, Nordhausen 1854

*Hist. Eccl.* = *Historia Ecclesiae sive populi Dei*, [Francofurti] 1581

*Arion* = S. Weise, *Der Arion von Lorenz Rhodoman. Ein altgriechisches Epyllion der Renaissance*, Stuttgart 2019

*Palaest.* = *Ποίησις Χριστιανή. Παλαιστίνης, ἥτοι ἀγίας ἱστορίας, βίβλια ἐννέα. Poesis Christiana. Palaestinae, seu Historiae Sacrae, libri novem*, Francofurti 1589

*Thren.* = Ἦρωσ, ἥτοι Θρήνος Σαξωνικός. *Carmen lugubre Serenissimo Principi Heroique incomparabili, Dn. Friderico Wilhelmo* [...], Witebergae 1602

*Scal.* = Γενέθλια Ἰωσήφου τοῦ Σκαλανοῦ, ἀνδρὸς εὐγενεῖα τε καὶ σοφία διαφέροντος, Witebergae 1602

Gothus, *Catech.* = Matthaeus Gothus (1548-1619): *Κατηχητικά, σὺν ἀντιθέσει τῶν ἐναντιουμένων. Pietatis puerilis, et doctrinae catecheticae expositio, cum antithesi contrariae*, Francofurti 1574

Rittershausen, *Rhod.* = Konrad Rittershausen (1560-1613): poem on the death of Rhodoman, in AA.VV., *Manes Cl. V. Laurentii Rhodmani*, Witebergae 1608

## [5] Data

	hexameters	violations	%
Filelfo, <i>Psych.</i>	559	32	5,72
Poliziano, <i>Epigr.</i>	221	3	1,38
Châtillon, <i>Prodr.</i>	1362	75	5,51
book I	510	22	4,31
book II	453	31	6,84
book III	399	22	5,51
Scaliger, <i>Propria</i>	119	2	1,68
<i>Vers. sel.</i>	301	5	1,66
<i>Moretum</i>	123	5	4,06
<i>Mart.</i>	795	55	6,92
<i>Dist. Cat.</i>	377	13	3,45
Rhodoman, <i>Ilf. Herc.</i>	439	4	0,91
<i>Hist. Eccl.</i>	687	7	1,02
<i>Arion</i>	1248	9	0,72
<i>Palaest.</i>	4590	30	0,65
book I	326	8	2,45
book II	291	2	0,69
book III	1086	9	0,83
book IV	719	3	0,42
book V	548	1	0,18
book VI	257	2	0,78
book VII	251	1	0,39
book VIII	634	3	0,47
book IX	478	1	0,21
<i>Thren.</i>	219	1	0,46
<i>Scal.</i>	161	1	0,62
Gothus, <i>Catech.</i>	2497	17	0,68
Rittershausen, <i>Rhod.</i>	145	19	13,10

[6] Rhodoman's 'violations'

(a) Full 'violation': - ~ | ~ -

*Palaest.* 3.463 πάνδημον κατὰ λιμόν, ὀδευὲς ἔθηκεν ἄλευρον

(b) Apparent word-break after the *longum*: - : ~ | ~ -

*Palaest.* 1.10 ἔξοχα δ' εὐαγέεσσιν. ἐγὼ δὲ νέοισιν ὀδηγός

(c) Apparent word-break after the *biceps*: - ~ | ~ : -

*Palaest.* 3.136 ὕψιστος ταμίης· μετέπειτα δ' ἐς ἔθνος Ἀβράμου

(d) Apparent word-break after both *longum* and *biceps*: - : ~ | ~ : -

*Palaest.* 1.312 εὐφράνθη δ' ὁ γέρον, ὡσεὶ τις ἐς ἄϊδα νεύων

	(a) - ~   ~ -	(b) - : ~   ~ -	(c) - ~   ~ : -	(d) - : ~   ~ : -
<i>Ilf. Herc.</i>	-	2	1	1
<i>Hist. Eccl.</i>	-	4	-	3
<i>Arion</i>	2*	5	-	2
<i>Palaest.</i>	5**	22	1	2
<i>Thren.</i>	-	1	-	-
<i>Scal.</i>	-	1	-	-

\* Or perhaps just 1, if at line 553 one divides οὐ τις.

\*\* At 1.41 a proper name is involved.