

PALINGENESIA XLIV



ARCHIBALD ALLEN

THE FRAGMENTS
OF MIMNERMUS
TEXT AND COMMENTARY



FRANZ STEINER VERLAG STUTT GART

PALINGENESIA

MONOGRAPHIEN UND TEXTE
ZUR KLASSISCHEN ALTERTUMSWISSENSCHAFT

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HERAUSGEGEBEN VON
OTTO LENDLE UND PETER STEINMETZ

BAND 44



UNA EST QUAE REPARET SEQUE IPSA RESEMINET ALES:
ASSYRII PHOENICA VOCANT

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To
George Huxley

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Preface

Mimnermus has never had a full edition to himself in any language, the closest thing still being N. Bach's *Mimnermi Colophonii carminum quae supersunt* with its *epimetrum ad Solonem poetam*, published almost one hundred and seventy years ago. This *Text and Commentary* then might be said to fill a gap.

Anybody who has worked on the texts of the early Ionian elegists in the past fifteen years or so must confess indebtedness to the editorial expertise of M.L. West, *Iambi et Elegi Graeci* (1971-72) and B. Gentili & C. Prato, *Poetae Elegiaci* (1977/1988²). Let me add, however, that while I have found both of those editions to be extremely useful, I have kept as close as possible to the numbering of Mimnermus' fragments employed by West, who followed Bergk. Since I suppose that Mimnermus' *Nanno*, in two Alexandrian book-rolls, contained all of our surviving fragments, I have felt no need to group together those fragments which are said specifically to come from *Nanno*, and then to speculate on the placement of the rest; in short, the complicated re-numbering of the fragments offered by Gentili-Prato seems to me to be without good justification.

On practical matters, I may note that scholarly editions are cited usually by editors' names only and other scholarly works by years of publication, with full references for both in the Bibliography. Abbreviations are largely conventional or fairly obvious (so, e.g., F = fragment, T = testimonium, *H.h.* = *Homeric hymn*). Unless printed otherwise, all ancient dates are B.C.

I am grateful to Prof. D.E. Gerber and Prof. R. Hamilton who read an earlier draft of my manuscript and offered a number of helpful suggestions. I should also like to thank Prof. P. Steinmetz and Prof. O. Lendle for accepting the work for publication in their *Palingenesia* series, and Diane E. Smith, Scholarly Typesetter, who prepared the camera-ready copy. And, finally, to Dr. G. Huxley, my dedicatee, I offer a special note of thanks. He introduced me to Mimnermus *et al.* when I was a student at Queen's, Belfast, patiently supervised my initial researches into fragmentary texts (diss. Belfast 1970), and has been a firm friend across Ocean's streams ever since.

Washington, D.C.
& University Park,
Pennsylvania

January 1993

TESTIMONIA FOR MIMNERMUS' LIFE AND WORK

The most comprehensive collection of Mimnerman testimonia is that of Szádeczky-Kardoss 1959 (= S-K). It numbers 100 items, including the poetical fragments, all arranged in chronological order, from the Archaic age to the Medieval period. Its large total is to be explained, however, by the device of double and even triple listings, and by the inclusion of *dubia* and *spuria*; for a stiff review, see A.P. Burnett, *CP* 56 (1961) 264 ff.

The Gentili-Prato collection (= G-P), with 22 items, is much more manageable and useful and serves as a model for the present compilation. Thus T1 - T3 have to do with dates and facts; T4 - T10 contain possible fact and probable fancy about Mimnermus' work; T11 - T17 are concerned with his reputation in antiquity and beyond; and T18 - T23, corresponding closely to 17-22 G-P, preserve various assertions about Mimnermus and the elegiac metre.

The testimonia are presented here without critical notes; textual problems will be considered *infra*.

1 (1 G-P; 77 S-K)

Suda s.v. Μίμνερος (III 397, no. 1077 Adler)

Λιγυρτυάδου, Κολοφώνιος ἢ Σμυρναῖος ἢ Ἄστυπαλαεὺς,
ἐλεγειοποιός. γέγονε δ' ἐπὶ τῆς λζ' Ὀλυμπιάδος, ὡς προτερεῦειν τῶν
ζ' σοφῶν. τινὲς δὲ αὐτοῖς καὶ συγχροεῖν λέγουσιν. ἐκαλεῖτο δὲ καὶ
Λιγυραιστάδης διὰ τὸ ἐμμελὲς καὶ λιγύ. ἔγραψε βιβλία † ταῦτα
πολλά.

2 (4 G-P; 27 S-K)

Strabo 14.643

ἄνδρες δ' ἐγένοντο Κολοφώνιοι τῶν μνημονευομένων Μίμνερος,
αὐλητῆς ἅμα καὶ ποιητῆς ἐλεγείας.

3 (6 G-P)

Ael. Herodianus, Καθολικὴ Προσωπιδία, Cod. Vindob. Hist. gr. 10 F 1^v (ed.
H. Hunger, *Jahrb. d. öster. byzant. Gesellschaft* 16 [1967] 20)

Κολοφωνιακός...Μιμνέρμου τοῦ Κολοφωνιακοῦ

4 (2 G-P; 5, 41 S-K)

Hermesianax F 7.35-40 Powell (*ap.* Athen. 13.597a)

Μίμνερος δέ, τὸν ἠδὺν ὃς εὔρετο πολλὸν ἀνατλάς
 ἦχον καὶ μαλακοῦ πνεῦμ' ἀπὸ πενταμέτρου,
 καίετο μὲν Ναννοῦς, πολιῶι δ' ἐπὶ πολλάκι λωτῶι
 κνημοθεὶς κώμους εἶχε σὺν Ἐξαμύηι·
 † ἠδηχθεε† δ' Ἑρμόβιον τὸν αἰεὶ βαρὺν ἠδὲ Φερεκλῆην
 ἐχθρόν, μισήσας οἱ ἀνέπεμψεν ἔπη.

5 (3 G-P; 9, 84 S-K)

Posidippus AP 12.168 (= 3086-93 Gow-Page)

Ναννοῦς καὶ Λύδης ἐπίχει δύο, καὶ † φερεκάστου
 Μιμνέρμου καὶ τοῦ σώφρονος Ἀντιμάχου·
 συγκέρασον τὸν πέμπτον ἐμοῦ, τὸν δ' ἕκτον ἐκάστου,
 'Ἡλιόδωρ', εἶπας, ὅστις ἔρων ἔτυχεν·
 ἔβδομον Ἡσιόδου, τὸν δ' ὄγδοον εἶπον Ὀμήρου,
 τὸν δ' ἕνατον Μουσῶν, Μνημοσύνης δέκατον.
 μεστὸν ὑπὲρ χεῖλους πίομαι, Κύπρι, τάλλα δ' Ἑρωτες
 νήφοντ' οἰνωθέντ' οὐχὶ λίην ἄχαριν.

6 (13 G-P; 8, 12, 43 S-K)

Alexander Aetol. F 5. 1-5 Powell (*ap.* Athen. 14.699b)

ὡς Ἀγαθοκλεῖος λάσσαι φρένες ἤλασαν ἔξω
 πατρίδος, ἀρχαίων ἦν ὄδ' ἀνὴρ προγόνων,
 εἰδὼς ἐκ νεότητος αἰεὶ ξείνοισιν ὀμιλεῖν
 ξείνος· Μιμνέρμου δ' εἰς ἔπος ἄκρον ἰὼν
 παιδομανῆς ἐν ἔρωτι ποτ' ἦν ἴσον...

7 (7 G-P; 41 S-K)

Athenaeus 13.597a

παρέλιπον δὲ καὶ τὴν Μιμνέρμου αὐλητρίδα Ναννώ καὶ τὴν
 Ἑρμησιάννακτος τοῦ Κολοφωνίου Λεόντιον.

8 (5 G-P; 3, 33 S-K)

Ps. Plut. *De musica* 8 (= Hipponax F 146 Degani, F 153 West)

καὶ ἄλλος δ' ἐστὶν ἀρχαῖος νόμος καλούμενος Κραδίας, ὃν φησὶν
 Ἰππῶναξ Μίμνερον αὐληῆσαι. ἐν ἀρχῇ γὰρ ἐλεγεία
 μεμελοποιημένα οἱ αὐλωιδοὶ ἦιδον.

9 (9 G-P; 46 S-K)

Porphyrion ad Hor. *Epist.* 2.2.101 (Holder p. 399)

Mimnermus duos libros <luculentibus> scripsit.

10 (10 G-P; 10 S-K)

Callimachus *Aetia* I F 1.9-12 Pfeiffer

ἀλλὰ καθέλκει
 ποῖ λὸ τὴν μακρὴν ὄμπνια Θεσμοφόρο[ς·
 τοῖν δὲ] δυοῖν Μίμνερος ὅτι γλυκὺς, αἰ ρὶ κατὰ λεπτόν
] ἡ μεγάλη δ' οὐκ ἐδίδαξε γυνή.

10A (44 S-K)

Schol. Flor (*PSI* XI [1935] No. 1219 F 1, 12-15)

παρα] τίθεται τε ἐν σ(υ)κρίσει τὰ ὀλίγων στί-
 χ(ων) ὄν]τ(α) ποιήματα Μιμνέρμου τοῦ Κο-
 λοφω]νίου καὶ Φιλίτα τοῦ Κώιου βελτίονα
 τ(ῶν) πολ]υστίχων αὐτ(ῶν) φάσκων εἶναι [. . . .

10B (28 S-K)

Schol. Lond. (*P. Lit. Lond.* [1927] No. 181, col. II, 9-13)

ἦτοι πολὺ καθέλκει ἢ τ(ήν) πολὺ μακρ(ήν) |
 ἐδίδαξαν αἰ κατὰ λεπτ(όν) | οὐκ ἐδίδ(α)ξαν ἢ
 μεγάλη(η) | λέγει ὅτι γλυκ(ύς) ὁ Μίμνερος |

11 (11 G-P; 22 S-K)

Horace *Epist.* 2.2.99-101

discedo Alcaeus puncto illius; ille meo quis?
 quis nisi Callimachus? si plus adposcere visus
 fit Mimnermus et optivo cognomine crescit.

12 (12 G-P; 20 S-K)

Propertius 1.9.11-12

plus in amore valet Mimnermi versus Homero:
 carmina mansuetus lenia quaerit Amor.

13 (14 G-P; 31 S-K)

CIG II 2.3376

Πό(πλιος) Πετρώνιος Σελοῦνδος τὸ μνεῖλον ἑαυτῶι καὶ γυναικὶ | καὶ

τέκνοις. Πό(πλιος) Πετρώνιος Ἀχαικὸς τειμηθεὶς ψηφίσμασιν καὶ Ἰ
στεφανῶθεις χρυσέωι στεφάνωι ὑπὸ γερουσίας, νέων Μιμνερμείου, Ἰ
παιδευτῶν συνόδου· Ἀχαικὴ χαίρε

- 14** (13a [Addenda, p. 246] G-P; 29 S-K)
Apollonius Tyaneus, *Epist.* 71 Penella

καλῶς οὐδὲ τοῖς τάφοις ἐκείνοι δέχονται ἂν ἅτε ἀγνώτας αὐτοῖς
γενομένους, εἴ γε πρότερον ἠρώων ἢ ὀνόματα καὶ ναυμάχων καὶ
νομοθετῶν, νυνὶ δὲ Λευκόλλων τε καὶ Φαυρικίων καὶ Λευκανίων
τῶν μακαρίων. Ἐμοὶ μὲν εἶη μᾶλλον ὄνομα Μίμνερμος.

- 15** (8 G-P; 50 S-K)
Solinus 40.6 (*Collectanea rerum memorabilium* rec. Th. Mommsen [Berlin
1895²] p. 167).

ingenia Asiatica inclita per gentes fuere. poetae Anacreon inde Mimner-
mus et Antimachus (T 11 Wyss), deinde Hipponax (T 66 Degani),
deinde Alcaeus, inter quos etiam Sappho mulier.

- 16** (15 G-P)
Janus Lascaris *Ep.* 20 (*Epigrammi Greci* ed. A. Meschini [Padova 1976]
p. 49)

μέτρον Μιμνέρμου καὶ Βαττιάδου τὸ τερπνόν
οὔτοι ἄνευ μέτρων ἔστι μαθεῖν ἐπέων.
εἰ δ' ὀλίγοις ἐλέγοις σπεύδεις, ἀκίχητα διώκεις·
ἔξ πρότερος βαίνει, πέντε ποσὶν δ' ἕτερος.

- 17** (16 G-P; 100 S-K)
Petrus Alcyonius, *Medices legatus sive de exilio I*
Petri Alcyonii Medices legatus sive de exilio libri duo...cum praefatione Jo.
Burchardi Menckenii et indice copioso (Analecta de calamitate litteratorum),
Lipsiae 1707. p. 69.

Audiebam etiam puer ex Demetrio Chalcondyla, Graecarum rerum
peritissimo, sacerdotes Graecos tanta floruisse auctoritate apud Caesares
Byzantinos, ut integra, illorum gratia, complura de veteribus Graecis
poemata combusserint inprimisque ea ubi amores, turpes lusus et nequitiae
amantium continebantur, atque ita Menandri, Diphili, Apollodori,
Philemonis, Alexis fabellas, et Sapphus, Erinnae, Anacreontis, Mimnermi,
Bionis, Alcmanis, Alcaei carmina intercidisse.

18 (17 G-P; 49 S-K)

Ps.-Censorinus, *De musica. Gramm. Lat.* rec. H. Keil VI, 607-08.

Prior est musica inventione metrica. Cum sint enim antiquissimi poetarum Homerus, Hesiodus, Pisander, hos secuti elegiarii Callinus (T 4 G-P), Mimnermus...

19 (18 G-P; 55 S-K)

Scholia Bobiensia in Cic. *pro. Archia* 25 (Hildebrandt, p. 164) = Aristot. F 676 Rose.

Primus autem videtur elegiacum carmen scripsisse Callinos (T 3 G-P). Adicit Aristoteles praeterea hoc genus poetas Antimachum Colofonium (T 10 Wyss), Archilochum Parium, Mimnermum Colofonium, quorum numero additur etiam Solon...

20 (19 G-P; 71 S-K)

Photius, *Biblioth. cod. 239* (Procli *Chrestomathia*), 24-27, p. 319b, 6-14. A. Severyns, *Recherches sur la Chrestomathie de Proclus. Le codex 239 de Photius II* (Liège-Paris 1938) p. 38.

λέγει δὲ (sc. Proclus) καὶ ἀριστεῦσαι τῷ μέτρῳ Καλλίνον τε τὸν Ἐφέσιον (T 14 G-P) καὶ Μίμνερον τὸν Κολοφώνιον, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν τοῦ Τηλέφου Φιλήταν τὸν Κῶιον (T 8a Kuchenmüller) καὶ Καλλίμαχον τὸν Βάττου...

20A (76, 87 S-K)

Canones Byzantini, *Tab. M, poetae elegiaci*. O. Kroehnert, *Canonesne poetarum scriptorum artificum per antiquitatem fuerunt?* (Königsberg 1897) p. 6.

Ἐλεγιοποιηταὶ δ'· Καλλῖνος, Μίμνερος, Φιλήτας, Καλλίμαχος.

Tab. C (Kroehnert, *op. cit.* p. 13), cod. N. (add. H. Rabe, *Rh. Mus.* 65 [1910] 342)

Ἐλεγείων ποιηταὶ· Καλλῖνος, Μίμνερος, Φιλήτας, Καλλίμαχος.

20B (90 S-K)

Tzetzes in Lycophr. *Alex.* (II, p. 3 Scheer)

Ἐλεγείων δὲ ποιηταὶ Καλλίμαχος, Μίμνερος, Φιλήτας.

21 (20 G-P; 51 S-K)

Marius Plotius Sacerdos, *Artes Gramm.* III 3 *Gramm. Lat.* rec. H. Keil IV, 509-10.

Auctorem vero huius metri, id est elegiaci, alii Pythagoram, alii Ortugen, non nulli Mimnermum dicunt.

21A (54 S-K)

Marius Victorinus, *Ars gramm.* III. *Gramm. Lat.* rec. H. Keil VI 107.

Quod metrum invenisse fertur Callinus Ephesius. Alii vero Archilochum eius auctorem tradiderunt, quidam Colophonium quendam, super quorum opinione apud grammaticos magna dissensio est.

21B (70 S-K)

Isidorus Hispalensis, *Orig.* I 39, 14-15.

Isidori Hispalensis...Etymologiarum sive Originum libri XX, rec. W.M. Lindsay, I, 39, 14-15.

Nam quidam eorum Colophonium quendam, quidam Archilochum auctorem atque inventorem volunt.

22 (21 G-P; 17, 67, 86 S-K)

Orio s.v. ἔλεγχος = Didymus F 1.

Orionis Thebani Etymologicon, ed. F.G. Sturzius (1820), col. 58.

Didymi...fragmenta...colleg. et dispos. M. Schmidt (1854), p. 387.

Εύρετην δὲ τοῦ ἐλεγίου οἱ μὲν τὸν Ἀρχίλοχον, οἱ δὲ Μίμνερον, οἱ δὲ Καλλῖνον παλαιότερον (T 5 G-P).

Cf. Etym. Gudianum s.v. ἔλεγχος (p. 452 De Stefani):

Εύρετην δὲ τῆς ἐλεγείας οἱ μὲν τὸν Ἀρχίλοχον, οἱ δὲ Μίμνερος, οἱ δὲ Καλλῖνον παλαιότερον.

23 (22 G-P; 7, 42, 81 S-K)

Athenaeus 14.620c

Χαμαιλέον δὲ (F 28 Wehrli) ἐν τῷ περὶ Στησιχόρου καὶ μελωιδηθῆναί φησιν οὐ μόνον τὰ Ὀμήρου, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ Ἡσιόδου καὶ Ἀρχιλόχου (T 32 Tard.), ἔτι δὲ Μιμνέρμου καὶ Φωκυλίδου.

MIMNERMUS' LIFE

Date

Solon of Athens, solar eclipses, and excavations in Turkey all have something to offer on the dating of Mimnermus, but the most reliable guide to his date, no less than the date of Archilochus, is Gyges of Lydia.¹

The elegy (ἐλεγεία) which Pausanias (9.29.4 = F 14) says that Mimnermus composed on 'the battle' (τὴν μάχην) between the Smyrnaeans and Lydians under Gyges is to be identified with the work which a commentator on Antimachus calls *Smyrneis*, for the couplet which he quotes from this *Smyrneis* (F 13) refers to a king and his men on the field of battle, and the title implies a Smyrnaean focus. The distinct title, the surviving couplet, which entails *oratio recta*, and Pausanias' testimony to an ornate proem in which two generations of the Muses were named, all suggest that the *Smyrneis* was a comparatively lengthy, narrative elegy. As such, it cannot have been the source of F 15, which celebrates a hero who routed Lydian cavalry in the plain of the Hermus river, for that fragment is too personal and concise to have come from an expansive battle poem.² But the elegy of which F 15 is part and the *Smyrneis* both had to do with the same battle. The hero will have been a Smyrnaean, since the valley of the Hermus was the natural place for Smyrnaeans to resist advancing Lydians (see MAP, p. 79), and the cavalry will have been Gyges' cavalry, since the Smyrnaeans' stand against Gyges was their only memorable stand against any of the Lydian kings.³

¹ On the chronology of the Lydian kings, see Kaletsch 1958; for the importance of Gyges in dating Archilochus, see F. Jacoby, 'The Date of Archilochus,' *CQ* 35 (1941) 97 ff.

² My assumption that Mimnermus speaks in F 15 *in propria persona* will probably strike some readers as somewhat rash, or at least a bit quaint. Let me note in passing, therefore, that I am well aware of the risks which accompany biographical interpretations of fragmentary Greek poetry; cf., of course, Dover 1963, 203 f. and 211 f., and, for a gloomy assessment of the value of seeming references to self and kin in Mimnermus' fragments, see Tsagarakis 1977, 26 ff. But an overly cautious approach in one case may be just as unsatisfactory as an overly credulous one in another; for full and balanced discussion, with special reference to the practices of Alcaeus, Alcman, and Archilochus, see W. Rösler, 'Persona reale o persona poetica? L'interpretazione dell' 'io' nella lirica greca arcaica,' *QUCC* n.s. 19 (1985) 131 ff. If Mimnermus is not speaking *in propria persona* in F 15, the speaker will have to be identified as a character in a narrative poem of sufficient size and scope to contain direct discourse. Whatever might have been the subject of such a poem, it obviously could not have been the battle by the river, which the speaker recalls tangentially in a dozen or so lines.

³ Rhianus may have referred to it in his *Messenika*, since Pausanias (whose source for Messenian history made use of that third century epic) tells how Aristomenes and Theoclus tried to inspire courage in the Messenians during the defence of Ira by recalling the Smyrnaeans' bravery in expelling Gyges from their city: καὶ Σμυρναίων τὰ τολμήματα