Sat.56-63: Notes

56

Rimell 2002 p9 on 56.1-4 "As we read the *Satyricon*, we continually face the idea that literature can affect our bodies and 'inner selves', and that reading may be influenced by (uncontrollable, unconscious) physical impulses, just as texts contain powerful, threatening 'insides' which are often best kept hidden. The dishes staged by Trimalchio as interpretative challenges are still alive and rumbling in his stomach, and animals served for dinner contain live intestines, while the (misinterpreted) wooden Trojan horse is pregnant with fighting men. Perhaps the most overt illustration of this tension between inside and outside bodies comes at *Sat*. 56, when Trimalchio implicitly compares the trials of being a money-lender or a doctor to the difficulty of a writing career: you have to be an expert to see what is lurking beneath a veneer of cleanliness and prosperity, but be warned, that knowledge leads you straight to the diseased and cheapened core of things"

See Smith on T.'s garbled generalizations and on 6 for uneducated drifting. Schemling notes that there seems to have been ongoing discussions at 'symposia' like T.'s about which profession was the most demanding and therefore useful. Nb doctors and money-changers professions T has knowledge of/interest in.

2 *praecordia sua*: possessives common in colloquial speech.

illos odi pessime: "I hate them in the worst way" (Schmeling); *odi pessime*: Smith notes colloquial.

medicus …. nummularius: nominatives taking up the accusatives (colloquial).

anatinam: see Smith for why duck.

4-5: why do oxen and sheep have to die, so we may eat and have clothes? Mute beasts in opposition to divine bees in 6.

6 *quae mel vomunt*: "who spew honey" (Schmeling). NB in ancient thought bees transmit food of gods, honey, through heavens (which create it) to earth.

ubi … acidum: idea goes back at least to Plato *Phlb*. 46 c (and note that next sentence talks about philosophers).

7 *iam etiam*: sarcasm from E. Cf. symposium attended by philosophers and how different (allusions to Plato remind us of difference). Cf. Seneca *Ep*. 88.44 *Zenon Eleates omnia negotia de negotio deiecit* (parodying Seneca?).

7-8 *pittacia … apophoreta*: "tickets … take-away gifts". (Schmeling). Tickets would allow recipients to take particular gifts: sometimes, as here, with puns (possibly familiar: Smith).

8 *argentum sceleratum*: pun on Greek word for ham or leg; gift = leg of pork.

cervical: instead of neck-piece/cushion, get neck-end. Schmeling translates phrase "a neck-pillow: what was brought was a scrap of meat from the neck".

serisapia et contumelia: see Smith's n. *serisapia* (late wisdom/late savour) only here. Pun *cont –u-melia*.

xerophagiae: dry salt biscuits.

9 *porri … cultrum*: "leeks and peaches: a whip and a knife" (Schmeling). One kind of leek = *porrum sectivum*, from *secare* > stem of leeks could be taken for whips. Pun on *persica: per* + *sica* or *persecare.*

passeres … Atticum: "sparrows and fly-paper: raisins and Attic honey" (Schmeling). Play on words *passeres* and *passam*. Fly-paper used to keep flies off food, esp. honey which is proverbially full of flies: Schmeling observes pun on *apiarium* which is full of bees and suggests by a kind of logic a gift of Attic honey.

cenatoria … tabulas: "clothes for dinner and for the forum; a piece of meat and writing tablets" (Schmeling): meat good for dinner, tablets good for forum.

canale et pedale … allata: "something for a dog, something for a foot" (Schmeling); Smith suggests reference to splint and bandage for foot or cloth for wiping foot. Link between *canale* and *canis*? *solea* (sandal)- as gift, "sole fish".

muraena.... betae: "a *muraena* and a letter: a mouse with a frog tied to it and a hunch of beets"

(Schmeling).”The puns seem to be *MUR*aena – *MUR*em (or *mus*+rana > muraena) and *littera – beta* (second letter in Greek alphabet).” (Schmeling).
fascemque betae: Smith notes bundle of beet = worthless + laxative (cf. 47.2: necessary!).
10 *diu risismus*: see Smith on narratorial tactics. To Hermeros (57.2) E. and friends seem to laugh at, not with, T.
sexcenta: a large number, OTT, though probably used as canonical number for innumerable.
quae … meae: see Beck 1973 for such expressions supporting the theory that the older E is looking back at what he did in his youth.

57
Hermeros proud of what he has achieved (e.g. become *sevir*, the highest honour a municipal freedman could attain; cf. Trimalchio and note their similar careers, fitting way freedmen often reflect on the host. One usually had to pay a fee to become a *sevir*); also sensitive to fact he has been hard-working slave for 40 years (Schmeling notes seems a long time but probably held a privileged place in household and needed in his job).
1 *Ascyltos... licentiae*: genitive of description with a proper noun.
2 v*ervex*: wethers= stupid and impotent.
beatior es: “richer” (Schmeling).
convivare: usually deponent.
ita … discumberem: “as certain as I hope to have the holy guardian of this house standing with me, so that if I should ever recline next to him (Ascyltos)...” (Schmeling).
clusissem: “I'd have stopped his bleating by now” (Smith).
3 *larifuga*: “runaway” (Smith).
non valet lotium suum: “isn't worth his own piss” (Smith).
ad summam: Hermos begins sentences with this six times.
si...: urine magical element for confinement.
non... soleo cito fervere: hardly!
sed in molli …. nascuntur: “it's in rotten flesh that worms breed” (Smith). Idea of A's flesh being soft because he's used for sex?
4 *numquid.. lamna*: “did your father have to pay money for his offspring?” (Smith); *lamna* = ablative of price.
eques Romanus es: Hermeros ridiculing A. because he's putting on airs.
et ego regis filius: “If you are a Roman knight, then I am a king's son” (Schmeling); sarcastic. We probably don't take Hermeros seriously. NB a non-Roman could sell himself into slavery to a Roman citizen on the condition that he could later buy his freedom.
constitutum: here = an agreement to pay a sum of money on a fixed date. Nb Freedmen inscriptions could boast of being debt-free etc.
6 *glebulas*: “a bit of land” (Schmeling). Nb charming diminutives. Mock modesty?
viginti ventres: 20 slaves.
lamellulas: “a bit of plate” (Schmeling).
mille denarios: 4,000 sesterces (not a high price for a slave. Other prices at 65.10 (slave worth 50,000; 68.8 1,200; 97.2 A. offers 1,000 for Giton as if run-away slave). Hermeros seems to have bought his own freedom and paid the *vicesima*. Self-purchase of freedom by slaves not uncommon, (Schmeling).
8 *tuus magister*: E, Ascyltos and Giton go with Agamemnon to the dinner party and are not known to T personally; seems that Agamemnon had previously brought some of his students to such a dinner.
maior natus: vulgar for *maior natu*.
lacticulosus: “just weaned” (Smith).
nec … argutas: “You can't squeak out *mu* or *ma*” (Smith); Schmeling renders “You are not yet up to your ABC” and comments that children learn to pronounce letter combinations (such as m +u) after learning the alphabet. NB *argutas* here active but more commonly deponent form.

vasus fictilis: “earthenware pot” (Smith).
vasus … aqua: “You are as cheap as a clay pot and as useless as leather in water” (Schmeling, who sees sexual innuendo: *vasus= testes = mentula*).
8-9 *lentior non melior*: “limper not better” (Schmeling).
9 H says he came to the city where the episode takes place when he was a young boy, got some in-house training as a favoured slaves and then learnt a trade/craft of some kind. Education probably at school set up to teach craft-literacy to slaves and lower-class freeborn children
9 *tu beatior es: bis prande, bis cena*: “If you are better off, then eat two lunches and two dinners” (Schmeling who observes that this colloquial structure corresponds to a conditional sentence).
puer capillatus: cf T 63.3.
coloniam: *urbs Graeca* (81.3) = a *colonia* (44.12); Puteoli?
domino satis facerem: master's pet like T?
pluris .. es: proverbial.
habebam … illac: Hermeros' rise as favourite provokes resentment amongst his fellow slaves.
11 *haec sunt vera athla*: “These are real contests/accomplishments/ struggles in life; being born free is as easy as answering a come-hither” (Walsh).
tamquam hircus in ervilia: “like a goat in a field of vetch” (Smith): a goat wouldn't know where to start/proceed in such a tasty field- so A. unused to the riches of T's feast.

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1 *ad pedes stabat*: “he lingered like a slave at the feet of his master” (Schmeling). Cf. 26.10. Hermeros thinks Giton (standing) is Ascyltos' slave.
2 *cepa cirrata*: “curly-headed onion” (Schmeling).
io Saturnalia …: i.e. it can't be December when feast takes place. Saturnalia was a festival in December when things got topsy-turvy (so slaves could get away with abusing their masters).
quid faciat crucis offla..: crucifixion common way of punishing slaves.
Iovis: nominative form.
3 *ita …dono*: “as sure as I hope to get my bellyfull, I'll let your behaviour pass out of respect for my fellow freedman” (Smith); “thus as I pray that I get my share of bread, thus I forgive this awful event for the sake of my freedman friend” (Schmeling). The friend refers to T.
tibi depraesentium reddidissem: “otherwise I would have already given you your due on the spot” (Schmeling who sees *depraesentium* on analogy with *impraesentium = in praesentia rerum*); *depraesentium*: “under the present circumstances” (Smith).
4 *matrem...*: see Bodel 2003 for cash and cash metaphors.
videbo te in publicum: accusative instead of ablative of place. “I'll see you outside” or “I'll get you out in the open” (Schmeling, noting *mus* and *terrae tuber* are found underground).
5 *nec sursum nec deorsum non cresco*: Schmeling notes double negatives reinforce rather than cancel.
non crecsco, nisi … conieci: “The freedman employs graphic usages of tenses, present and perfect, in place of the expected future and future perfect” (Schmeling ad loc.).
curabo...: “I'll see to it that your worthless curls and that no-good master of yours are no help to you” (Smith); “I'll see to it that your cheap curls and your no-good master won't be much use to you” (Schmeling).
longe tibi: NB *OLD longe* 6a, *longe esse* + dative “to be of no avail”.
6 *recte, venies sub dentem*: “I shall get my teeth into you” (Schmeling).
licet … habeas: “even though you have a golden beard” (Schmeling): i.e. even if some kind of god (beards of some statues of gods were golden).
7 *deuro de*: “(come) here” (Smith); a “come-hither boy” = *deliciae*.
alogias: nonsense. Nb unclassical pluralizing of *geometricas*, *critica*. *menias*: “The Wrath” (alluding to Hom. *Il*. 1.1).
lapidarias litteras: i.e. letters of sort on inscriptions (capitals).
partes centum: “percentages” (Schmeling).

8 *ego et tu sponsiunculum: exi*... " a little bet, come on" (Schmeling); two pronouns without verb= colloquial.
iam scies: i.e. criticism of rhetoric reflects on Agamemnon.
ecce... me: "I am one of us, I come long and wide: solve me" (Schmeling). Riddles popular entertainment. Line = a trochaic septenarius. *de nobis* equivalent here to *nostrum*. Hermeros goes on to add 2 more riddles (answers: foot, eye, hair) (or possibly clues, in which case answer would be penis or shadow).
10 *qui te natum non putat*: "thinks you don't exist" (Smith).
nisi si: "unless" (Schmeling).
anulos buxeos: "rings made of box-wood" (Smith). Is Hermeros addressing Ascyltos and accusing him of wearing gold ring/ being an imposter, or Giton? Maybe rings boxwood and painted gold??
11 *Occuponem propitium*: *OLD* s.v. "Apparently a god of opportunism".
hoc ferrum: "this iron ring" (Schmeling). Contrast to boxwood; good old iron..
bella res: "a fine thing" (Smith).
ita … persecutus: Schmeling remarks on the complexity of the construction (opens with *ita* as comparative conjunction, then *ita* as an adverb, plus ut in a result clause, followed by *nisi* as a correlative). "as sure as I hope to make a fortune and die well off or have the people swear by my death, if I don't put the toga on the wrong way round and hound you everywhere" (Smith); "As sure as I hope to make a fortune and die in such a style that people swear by my death, if I do not put my toga the wrong way round and hound you everywhere" (Schmeling).
13 *mufrius*: i.e. something like "blockhead". Walsh translates this bit "What a fine figure this fellow here cuts who teaches you to behave like this; he's a muttonhead, not a master".
cave, maiorem maledicas: "No cheek to your elders" (Walsh)
14 *at nunc mera mapalia*: "it's all an utter shambles" (Smith)?; "nowadays it's all an absolute muck-heap" (Sullivan).
dupondii evadit: "ends up worth twopence" (Smith).

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scordalias: "wrangling" (Smith).
sanguen: neuter form.
2 *qui vincitur vincit*: "The freedmen at the *Cena* seem to speak in proverbs" (Schmeling).
capo: Smith says apparently means rascal; Schmeling just goes for "young cock".
a primitiis: Smith suggests "anew"
3 *Homeristae*: theatrical, reciters in Greek of Homeric-like stories.
canora voce: "in a full-throated voice" (Smith); Schmeling prefers Sullivan's "sing-song voice". Does adding Latin add to din? Does T reading Latin suggest T has limited knowledge of Greek?
4 *Diomedes*...: a real jumble of myths which reflect son T's lack of education (e.g. Helen not sister, Ag doesn't drag her off and substitute deer. Myth of Ag killing daughter Iphigenia who in some versions had deer substituted).
5 *argumentum explicabit*: the verb is a technical term for the unfolding of the plot. The Ajax actor will go on to act this bit of the plot. T trying to emulate aristocratic mix of dining/learning.
6 *ducenaria*: "of two hundred pounds weight" (Smith). Again weight clear (cf. 31.10).
galeatus: calf wears helmet due to role in Ajax scene (cf 40.3 *pileatus* boar).
7 *modo versa modo supina gesticulatus*: "making now forehand, now backhand sweeps" (Smith).
secutus …. gesticulatus: "Ajax followed, and first with a forehand then with a backhand flourished the sword and sliced the meat" (Schmeling); sc. *Manu*. In myth Ajax went mad and killed sheep in belief they were men.

<u>60</u>
1 *strophas*: "flourishes" (Smith); Schmeling cfs *OLD stropha* "trick" and says Smith correct to see word retaining some of Greek sense "turn".
3 rich men could have dining-room ceiling which opens; for Nero cf. *Suet*. Nero 31.2 (retractable

panels where flowers and perfumes let down).
coronae... unguenti: “golden crown with alabaster jars filled with ointment” (Schmeling); alabastris: Smith says small globular vases of alabaster, used esp for perfumes or unguents.
4-6: pastry figure of Priapus (obscene), with fruit in lap (he is a garden god). On *more vulgato* Schmeling comments: “In typical iconographic style he holds his apron high enough to reveal his erect *mentula*; or perhaps the phrase refers to an aspect of the manner in which the fruit in Priapus' lap is held. At one level the reader surely sees the religious significance of saffron ...but at another he cannot help but stare at the sexual scene where a yellow liquid shoots from the fruit in the lap of Priapus. The sexual interpretation is strengthened when we note that the poma in the *gremium* of Priapus … are transferred into *Gitonis sinum*...Saffron is regularly used at sacrifices and in the theatre”.
5 *pompam*: “splendid array” (Smith). Schmeling notes that a *pompa* is a ritual parade with which the games open, a procession of the statues of various deities and wonders if Priapus' statue is to be seen as one of these statues and if scene a travesty of religious ritual.
commissio: “start, opening” (Smith).
6 *crocum*: See Courtney (2001), 100 for use of saffron in meal celebrating Metellus' victory over Sertorius (Sall. *Hist* 2.70). Saffron sprinkled in theatres (nb theme); here annoyingly the essence squirted into face.
7 *tam religioso apparatu perfusum*: “drenched (in saffron) with such a religious array” (Schmeling).
consurreximus altius: “we rose to our feet” (Schmeling). Would stand for religious ritual.
Augusto...: customary to greet arrival of emperor by standing and applauding. *feliciter* + dative is way to hail the genius of a living emperor. Normally one would utter prayer to the emperor's genius during dessert (which doesn't come until 68-9)
mappas implevimus: Schmeling notes that Romans often brought their own napkins to banquets and filled them with delicacies or *apophoreta* to take home. E seems to have taken one of T's or a fellow guest.
8 *Lares bullatos*: “Lares wearing amulets” (Schmeling). Sons of senators/ knights would get bulla at birth and dedicate this to Lares when got *toga virilis*. Suggstion of miracle and T retro-actively declared freeborn?
dii (sc, *sint*) *propitii*: traditional for a silence to be observed after main course, then offering and a youth would announce *dii propitii*.
Cerdonem … Felicionem...Lucrionem: “Gain, Luck, Profit” (Smith).
9: Schmeling argues statue that of T's genius (hence veram). Does T see himself as worthy of worship? Courtney (2001), 102 discusses way in which a deity was often set between Lares.

<u>61</u>
1 *Nicerotem*: Niceros a freedman and friend of Trimalchio's. Tells story (expected dinner-party entertainment).
2 *solebas..*: “and yet you used to be a pleasanter person to take dinner with” (Schmeling); cf. 64.2. Nb adverb instead of expected adjective.
taces nec muttis: “now you are strangely silent and you do not utter a squeak” (Schmeling).
3 *gaudimonio dissilio*: if I've not for a long time been fairly bursting with joy” (Schmeling). (Smith translates *dissilio* as “I'm simply bursting”)
4 *itaque...*: Niceros wary of speaking in front of educated (cf. 46.1 Echion). Schmeling notes that *hilaritas* is a leitmotif in the *Cena*: 39.1, 49.8, 52.8, 59.2, 60.5, 64.13, 65.8, 74.8.
viderint: “they'd better watch it” (Smith); “that's up to them” (Schmeling).
satius …. derideri: “It is better to be laughed at than to be laughed down” (Schmeling). See Courtney (2001), 104 for allusion in parody to Plato's *Symposium*.
5 *haec ubi dicta..*: gives epic-like air.
exorsus: cf. *Aen*. 2.2 *orsus*, again evocative of epic.
6 *amare coepi...*: first person narrative. Nb inns known for prostitution. Tarentum known for its honey. Melissa appears as name for a courtesan in Athenaeus.

bacciballum: from *bacca* (berry) and *ballum* (ball)? “beauty-butt” (Schmeling). Seems nick-name/term of affection.
7 *corporaliter*: “for her beauty only” (Schmeling).
benemoria: “sweet-natured” (Schmeling).
8 *in illius sinum*: popular use of in plus accusative instead of dative.
fefellitus sum: classical form = *falsus sum*.
9 *contubernalis*: after Melissa's partner dies, she becomes the wife of a free man and then lover of Niceros.
per scutum per ocream: “by hook or by crook” (lit “through shield and through greave”) (Smith).
egi aginavi: “I did everything in my power” (Schmeling); Smith translates *aginavi* as “schemed”.

62
1 *Capuae*: “to Capua” (Smith); seems to be a locative to express a place to which (unusual).
ad scruta scita expedienda “to settle some neat odds and ends” (Schmeling); Smith translates *scruta*: “odds and ends”.
2 *fortis tamquam Orcus*: “as brave as hell (or death)” (Schmeling).
3 *apoculamus nos*: “arsed off” (Smith); Schmeling prefers “we buggered off”; *nos* is accusative.
circa gallicinia: “cock-crow” (i.e. about two hours after midnight).
4 *venimus inter monimenta*: “we arrived among the roadside tombs” (Schmeling). Werewolves thought to haunt graveyards.
facere: Smith says euphemistic, do his business (Smith). Seems to have been unusual for travellers to relieve themselves by roadside tombs.
5 *mihi .. esse*: “my heart was in my mouth” (Schmeling, from belief that in death the soul comes out from mouth/nose); *esse* is a historic infinitive.
6 *ille circumminxit...*: soldier makes magic circle with his urine to keep his clothes safe.
ut mentiar …: value placed on truthfulness but note way money is used as framing reference, highlighting freedmen obsession with wealth.
8 *qui mori timore nisi ego?* “If anyone died of fright, I did so at that moment” (Schmeling).
8 *primitus*: “at first” (Smith).
9 *gladium*: iron popularly believed a way to attack evil spirits.
10 *in larvam:*“like a ghost” (Smith).
per bifurcum: *birfurcus* is “the point at which something forks” (OLD)> “down my crotch” (Arrowsmith): “down my legs” (Walsh).
11 *nobis adiutasses*: colloquial with dative.
omnia... misit: “like a butcher, he drained the blood of all my sheep” (Schmeling)
12 *tamquam copo compilatus*: “like the innkeeper who was robbed” (Smith): possibly type from stage or because inn-keepers were frequently robbed.
13 *bovis* = *bos*.
versipellem: “a werewolf” (Schmeling).
14 *exopinissent*: = *exopinentur*.

63
salvo tuo sermone: “with all respect for your story” (Smith); “with all respect for the truth of your story” or “I would not believe a word of it” (Schmeling).
si qua fides est: “if you'll take my word for it” (Smith).
ut … inhorruerunt:” how my hair stood on end” (Schmeling); cf. T.'s lack of hair?
asinus in tegulis: Schmeling comments that this is a proverbial expression indicating something strange and/or seemingly impossible.
cum adhuc capillatus: cf. 29.3; now bald.
3 *vitam Chiam*: Smith notes Chian reputation for effeminacy and luxurious living; they were connected with pathic behaviour.
ipsimi: Smith notes vulgar superlative.

delicatus: Smith translates “pet” and suggests sexual reference; Schmeling translates “sexual favourite”.
margaritum: “pearl” (Schmeling).
caccitus: corrupt text.
omnium numerum: Smith says i.e. complete in all respects and speculates on double entendre (“a lad who knew all the positions”); “one in a million”, “perfect” (Schmeling); genitive of quality.
4 *nostrum plures*: See Smith for textual issues.
in tristimonio : = *in tristitia*.
strigae: here “witches” (Schmeling).
5 *Cappadocem*: Cappadocians famed for strength (and stupidity).
6 *salvum ... tango*: “may that part of me be safe which I now touch” (Schemling); apotropaic words.
7 *baro autem noster*: “our big strong Cappodacian” (Schemling)
introversus: “having gone back inside” (Schmeling).
lividum: “a sickly hue” (Schmeling).
[*quia... manus*]: Smith suggests scribal interpolation.
8 *cluso*: = *clauso*.
amplexaret: note *dum* used temporally with subjunctive here.
manuciolum: “tiny handful” (Smith).manuciolum: “a small handful” (Schmeling).
non cor...: witches esp attack heart and intestines.
perhaps “a changeling of straw” (Schmeling).
9 *mulieres plussciae*: “women about with superhuman powers” (Schmeling). *plussciae* only here.
Nocturnae: euphemism for witches.
et quod ... faciunt: “and they leave everything topsy-turvy” (Schmeling); wicthes able to reverse the natural order of things.
10 *numquam coloris sui fuit*: “he never looked the same again” (Smith); “never his normal colour” (Schmeling).
phreneticus: “suffering from delirium” (Schemling).