

Translating the Names of Winds in the *Aeneid* and the Limits of Metonymy

1) The *communis opinio*

Labate: “V. usa volentieri il tropo (lo si chiama in genere ‘antonomasia vossianica’) che consiste nel dire ‘Aquilone’ o ‘Euro’ invece che ‘vento’ Ma, da questo punto di vista, non sempre è facile trovare il giusto equilibrio esegetico.”

Possanza: “Virgil’s treatment of the named winds is sometimes inconsistent with their individual characteristics....In nautical contexts, he does not always show a scrupulous concern for wind direction when he names specific winds.”

2) Avienus replies to Servius (Macrobius *Saturnalia* 6.9.13)

Subiecit Avienus: ‘cum iam...trabibus contextus acernis / staret equus’ [*Aen.* 2.112–3]: scire uellem in equi fabrica casune an ex industria hoc genus ligni nominauerit. Nam licet unum pro quolibet ligno ponere poeticae licentiae sit, solet tamen Vergilius temeritatem licentiae non amare, sed rationi certae in rerum uel nominum ele....

3) The Trojans leave the Strophades and head north (*Aen.* 3.268–9)

tendant uela Noti: fugimus spumantibus undis
qua cursum uentusque gubernatorque uocabat.

4) Helenus speaks to Anchises at Buthrotum before the Trojans sail north (3.480–1)

‘quid ultra
prouehor et fando surgentis demoror Austris?’

5) As the Trojans leave Polyphemus, they go around the southern end of Sicily (3.687–8)

ecce autem Boreas angusta ab sede Pelori
missus adest:

6) The Trojans want to leave Thrace and go south (3.61–2, 69–70)

omnibus idem animus, scelerata excedere terra,
linqui pollutum hospitium et dare classibus Austros....

Inde ubi prima fides pelago, placataque uenti
dant maria et lenis crepitans uocat Auster in altum....

- Servius *ad* 3.70: ‘*auster*’ autem *quinis uentus*: nam *ad Thraciam aquilone nauigatur*.
- Williams *ad* 3.70: “As they wish to sail south, the emphasis should be taken to be on the gentle nature of the breeze, not on its direction.”

- Horsfall *ad* 3.61: “A fair south wind (vd. Labate, *EV* 5*, 497) to carry the Trojans far up into the Thracian hinterland (Della Corte, 55 passes over the ‘problem’), but the antonomasia, repeated at 70 is an old favourite....No answer to suggest with Jal(966) that the Trojans could always have rowed; they could have indeed, into the wind, but in that case, V. would clearly enough have expressed himself differently. No answer, either, to conclude with Jal(968) that the Trojans could have tacked, all the way.”
- Horsfall *ad* 3.70: “V. wallows in the antonomasia of 61.”
- Perkell *ad* 3.60–1: “*Auster*, strictly the South wind, here means “wind,” as frequently.”
- Heyworth & Morwood *ad* 3.61: “*Austros*, literally ‘South Winds’, stands by synecdoche for the winds generally: South Winds would in fact not be helpful to them as they sail south from the north coast of the Aegean.”
- Heyworth & Morwood *ad* 3.69–72: “*Auster* is again generic here....It is not habitually a gentle wind....Thus the epithets matter....”

7) Juno visits Aeolus (1.50–52)

Talia flammato secum dea corde uolutans
nimborum in patriam, loca feta furentibus Austris,
Aeoliam uenit.

- Servius *ad* 1.51: ‘*austris*’ *figura est celebrata apud Vergilium: et est species pro genere. legerat apud Ennium ‘furentibus uentis,’ sed quasi asperum fugit et posuit ‘austris’ pro ‘uentis.’*
- Williams *ad* 1.51: “*Austris* (south winds) is used for the winds in general, especially in their stormier aspects.”
- Ganiban *ad* 1.51: “the *Austri* are the south winds but here loosely describe any violent winds....”

8) The beginning of the storm (1.84–6)

incubere mari totumque a sedibus imis
una Eurusque Notusque ruunt creberque procellis
Africus, et uastos uoluunt ad litora fluctus.

Cf. *Odyssey* 5.295–6:

σὺν δ’ Εὐρός τε Νότος τ’ ἔπεσον Ζέφυρός τε δυσαῆς
καὶ Βορέης αἰθρηγενέτης, μέγα κῦμα κυλίνδων.

9) The Arae (1.108–12)

tris Notus abreptas in saxa latentia torquet
(saxa uocant Itali mediis quae in fluctibus Aras,
dorsum immane mari summo), tris Eurus ab alto
in breuia et syrtis urget, miserabile uisu,
inlidique uadis atque aggere cingit harenae.

10) Aeneas' conversation with the disguised Venus (1.383)

‘uix septem conuulsae undis Euroque supersunt.’

- Austin *ad* 1.383: “Euro is effectively substituted for *uentis*.”

10) Ilioneus tells the story of the storm to Dido (1.534–8)

‘hic cursus fuit,
cum subito adsurgens fluctu nimbosus Orion
in uada caeca tulit penitusque procacibus Austris
perque undas superante salo perque inuia saxa
dispulit; huc pauci uestris adnaimus oris.’

12) Dido's response to Ilioneus' story (1.575–6)

‘atque utinam rex ipse Noto compulsus eodem
adforet Aeneas!’

- Servius: ‘*noto compulsus eodem*’: *aut quouis uento, aut re uera Noto, qui de syrtibus Carthaginiem ducit; supra enim Ilioneus “in uada caeca tulit penitusque procacibus austris”*
- Austin *ad* 1.575: “Noto is used for the general term.”
- Ganiban *ad* 1.575–6: “‘by the same wind,’ i.e. as that which brought you here.”

13) Neptune summons and addresses the winds (1.131–41)

Eurum ad se Zephyrumque uocat, dehinc talia fatur:
‘Tantane uos generis tenuit fiducia uestri?
iam caelum terramque meo sine numine, uenti,
miscere et tantas audetis tollere moles?
quos ego—sed motos praestat componere fluctus. 135
post mihi non simili poena commissa luetis.
maturate fugam regique haec dicite uestro:
non illi imperium pelagi saeuumque tridentem,
sed mihi sorte datum. tenet ille immania saxa,
uestras, Eure, domos; illa se iactet in aula 140
Aeolus et clauso uentorum carcere regnet.’

- Servius *ad* 1.131: ‘*eurum ad se Zephyrumque uocat*’: *per hos omnes intellege; isti enim sunt cardinales.... cur tamen Zephyrus, qui ad Italiam ducit, quem poeta supra tacuit, nunc uocatur? Ira in hoc Neptuni exprimitur, si etiam eum obiurgat qui non adfuerit.*

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