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Lost in Translation: What are στελμονίαι?

1. κυνῶν δὲ κόσμος δέραια, ἱμάντες, **στελμονίαι**: ἔστω δὲ τὰ μὲν δέραια μαλακά, πλατέα, ἵνα μὴ θραύῃ τὰς τρίχας τῶν κυνῶν, οἱ δὲ ἱμάντες ἔχοντες ἀγκύλας τῇ χειρί, ἄλλο δὲ μηδέν: οὐ γὰρ καλῶς τηροῦσι τὰς κύνας οἱ ἐξ αὐτῶν εἰργασμένοι τὰ δέραια: αἱ δὲ στελμονίαι πλατεῖς τοὺς ἱμάντας, ἵνα μὴ τρίβωσι τὰς λαγόνας αὐτῶν: ἐγκατερραμμέναι δὲ ἐγκεντρίδες, **ἵνα τὰ γένη φυλάττωσιν** (*Xenophon. Xenophontis opera omnia*, vol. 5. Oxford, Clarendon Press. 1920) (repr.1969).
2. Canum ornatus sunt collaria, lora, **cinctus**. Collaria quidem mollia sint et lata, ne pilos canum adterant. Lora pro minibus ansas habeant, praeterea nihil. Nec rectes canes retinent and servant, qui collaria de loris consiciunt. Cinctus habent lora latiora, ne canum ilia terant. Muniti sint etiam insultis aculeis, **ut genus suum conservent** (*Accesere Veterum Testimonia De Xenophonte*, 1692).
3. The accoutrements of the dogs consist in a collar a leather leading thong, and a **surcingle** *to guard the body*. The collar should be soft and broad that it may not rub off the dogs’ hair; the leading thong should have a knot for the hand to hold by, and nothing more; neither do those lead their dogs well who make part of the thong serve for a collar; the surcingle should have broad thongs that they may not gall the belly of the dog and sharp points are sewed on to it **to preserve the breed** (*Cynegetica or Essays on Sporting Consisting of Observations on Hare Hunting*, William Blane, 1788.)
4. The equipment of the dogs consists of collar straps, leashes, and **surcingles**, and the collar should be broad and soft so as not to rub the dog’s coat; the leash should have a noose for the hand, and nothing else. The plan of making collar and leash all in one is a clumsy contrivance for keeping a hound in check. The **surcingle** should be broad in the thongs so as not to gall the hound’s flanks, and with spurs stitched on to the leather, to preserve the **purity** of the breed. (*On Hunting: A Sportsman’s Manual*, H.G. Dakyns, 1897).
5. Les ornements des chiens sont le collier, la laisse, **le corselet**. Que le collier soit mince, large, pour ne pas brûler le poil des chiens ;-que la laisse ait des crochets pour être tenue à la main, et rien de plus : car c’est mal garder les chiens que de leur faire un collier de la laisse même ; que le corselet ait des courroies larges, pour ne pas leur faire mal aux flancs, et qu’on les garnisse de pointes, **pour éviter les croisements des races**.
6. Die Rustung der Hunde besteht in Halsbandern, halsband, und breiten Seitenriemen. De Halsbander mussen weich und breit fehn, damit sie die hare der hunde nicht abreiben. Die Halsbandriemen mit handhaben, sonsts mit nicht versehen fehn. Denn diejenigen sorgen nicht wohl fur die Hunde. Welche aus diesen riemen zugleich das Halsband machen. Die Riemen der Seitengurte sollen breit fenn , damit sie die Seiten der Hunde nicht abreiben; auch mit eingenahaten Stacheln versehn, damit die Race erhalten werde (T.W. Lenz, Xenophon uber die Jagd, 1828).
7. The dogs’ equipment is collars, leashes, and belts. The collars should be soft and wide so that they do not injute the dogs’ hair; the leashes should have loops for the hand, but nothing else, for those made in one piece with the collar do not control the dogs well. The belts should have broad straps, so that they do not rub the dogs’ flanks. The spurs should be sewn in, to protect the breed.” (*Xenophon On Hunting*, Ralph E. Doty, 2001).
8. ὣς κυνὸς ἰάνθη θυμὸς θρασύς· αὐτὰρ ἐπακτὴρ

καὶ μάλα μιν θύνοντα βιησάμενος **τελαμῶσι**

καγχαλόων παλίνορσος ἔβη μεθ᾿ ὅμιλον ἑταίρων.

Even so the stout heart of the dog is gladdened.

But the hunter for all his eagerness constrains him with straps

and goes back exulting to the company of his comrades. (Oppian, Κυνηγετικά, 4.374.376).

1. Dogs should be chained up during the day, so that they may be keener and more watchful at night (Cato, *De Agri Cultura*,124).

The hunting-dog suited to chase the beasts of the forest, and the other which is procured as a watch-dog and is of importance to the shepherd (Varro, *De Re Rustica*,2.9).

The hunting dog not only does not help the farmer but actually lures him away from his work, and makes him lazy about it (Columella, *De Re Rustica*,7.11)

1. Ne vulnerentur a bestiis, imponuntur his collaria, quae vocantur melium, id est cingulum circum collum ex corio firmo cum clavulis p404capitatis, quae intra capita insuitur pellis mollis, ne noceat collo duritia ferri; quod, si lupus aliusve quis his vulneratus est, reliquas quoque canes facit, quae id non habent, ut sint in tuto.

To protect them from being wounded by wild beasts, collars are placed on them, the so‑called melium, that is, a belt around the neck made of stout leather with nails having heads; under the nail heads there is sewed a piece of soft leather, to prevent the hard iron from injuring the neck. The reason for this is that if a wolf or other beast has been wounded by these nails, this makes the other dogs also, which do not have the collar, safe. (Varro, *De Re Rustica*, 2.9).

1. But the advantages that those who have been attracted by this pursuit will gain are many. For it makes the body healthy, improves the sight and hearing, and keeps men from growing old; and it affords the best training for war (Xenophon, Κυνηγετικά, 12.1).
2. θηρὸς δ᾽ αὖ μετέπειτα πελώριον ὠπήσαντο

ἴχνεσι τριβομένοισιν ἀταρπιτόν, ᾗ ἔνι πολλὸς

λαρὸν πιόμενος ποταμηπόρος ἰθὺς ὁδεύει.

For the hunter must mount the noble horse amid the rocks and anon must leap a ditch. And often in the woods must he with light feet and nimble limbs pursue the wild beast. Therefore let them not be stout who come to the warfare of the chase, nor yet over-lean; for at times the keen hunter must contend with warlike wild beasts (Oppian, Κυνηγετικά, 1.82-85).

1. sed primum auspicium deus artibus altaque circa

firmamenta dedit; tum partes quisque secutus

exegere suas tetigitque industria finem.

tu trepidam bello, vitam, Diana, ferino,

qua primam quaerebat opem, dignata repertis

protegere auxiliis orbemque hac solvere noxa.

But 'twas a divinity who gave the first favouring impulse to the arts, putting around them their deep-set props: then did every man work out the portions of his choice, and industry p153attained its goal. The life that was imperilled by warfare against wild beasts, where most it needed help, thou, Diana, didst deign to shield with aids of thy discovery, and to free the world from harm so great (Grattius, Κυνηγετικά, 10-15).

1. haec tua militia est. quin et Mavortia bello

vulnera et errantes per tot divertia morbos

causasque affectusque canum tua cura tueri est.

Such is your active service in the chase. But especially is it your concern to care for the martial wounds suffered in fight, the maladies which stray along so many different paths, their causes and the symptoms shown by your dogs (Grattius, Κυνηγετικά, 344-346).

1. si non ad speciem mentiturosque decores

pronus es (haec una est catulis iactura Britannis),

at magnum cum venit opus promendaque virtus

et vocat extremo praeceps discrimine Mavors:

non tunc egregios tantum admirere Molossos,

If you are not bent on looks and deceptive graces (this is the one defect of the British whelps), at any rate when serious work has come, when bravery must be shown, and the impetuous War-god calls in the utmost hazard, then you could not admire the renowned Molossians so much (Grattius, Κυνηγετικά, 177-181).

1. οἱ Μαιάνδρῳ παροικοῦντες Μάγνητες Ἐφεσίοις πολεμοῦντες ἕκαστος τῶν ἱππέων ἦγεν αὑτῷ συστρατιώτην θηρατὴν κύνα καὶ ἀκοντιστὴν οἰκέτην. ἡνίκα δὲ ἔδει συμμίξαι, ἐνταῦθα οἱ μὲν κύνες προπηδῶντες ἐτάραττον τὴν παρεμβολήν, φοβεροί τε καὶ ἄγριοι καὶ ἐντυχεῖν ἀμείλικτοι ὄντες: οἱ δὲ οἰκέται προπηδῶντες τῶν δεσποτῶν ἠκόντιζον. ἦν δὲ ἄρα ἐπὶ τῇ φθανούσῃ διὰ τοὺς κύνας ἀταξίᾳ καὶ τὰ παρὰ τῶν οἰκετῶν δρώμενα ἐνεργῆ. εἶτα ἐκ τρίτου ἐπῄεσαν αὐτοί.

The Magnetes who border upon Mæander warring against the Ephesians, every Horseman took along with him a Hound, and a Servant that served as an Archer. As soon as they came near, the Dogs falling fiercely upon the Enemy, disordered them, and the Servants advancing before their Masters, shot. The Dogs first routed them, then the Servants did them much harm ; and lastly, they themselves fell upon them (Aelian, *Varia Historia*, 14.46).

1. φέρει δὲ σῖτον καὶ βοσκήματα καὶ χρυσὸν καὶ ἄργυρον καὶ σίδηρον: ταῦτά τε δὴ κομίζεται ἐξ αὐτῆς καὶ δέρματα καὶ ἀνδράποδα καὶ κύνες εὐφυεῖς πρὸς τὰς κυνηγεσίας: Κελτοὶ δὲ καὶ πρὸς τοὺς πολέμους χρῶνται καὶ τούτοις καὶ τοῖς ἐπιχωρίοις.

Most of the island is flat and overgrown with forests, although many of its districts are hilly. It bears grain, cattle, gold, silver, and iron. These things, accordingly, are exported from the island, as also hides, and slaves, and dogs that are by nature suited to the purposes of the chase; the Celti, however, use both these and the native dogs for the purposes of war too (Strabo, Γεωγραφικά, 4.5).

(All Greek and Latin text and English translations taken from the Loeb unless otherwise indicated)

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