Was Sokrates’ half-brother a ‘filthy rich’ tragic poet?

CAMWS – APRIL 6, 2017

Prosopographies

- J. Kirchner, *Prosopographia Attica* (1901, 1903)

Wealth 83-5

ΧΡ. πόθεν οὖν, φράσον, σύχων βαδίζεις; Π. έκ Πατροκλέους έρχομαι δς ούκ ἐλούσατ’ ἐξ ὧτου περ ἐγένετο.

CHREMYLUS. So tell me, how come you’re going about in that filthy state?
WEALTH. I’m coming out of Patrokles’ house, and he never took a bath since the day he was born.

ΣΥ Wealth 84a α

- (α) Ἀθηναῖος, πλούσιος μὲν σφόδρα, ἄλλως δὲ κακόβιος τις καὶ φιλοχρήματος καὶ σκνιφὸς κυμῳδεῖται, RENpMatrBarb LutV77Ald.

"Athenian, made fun of as very wealthy but otherwise an ill-living, avaricious, and mean man..."
He (Aristophanes) lampoons Patrocles as Athenian and wealthy but mean and miserly; he was a tragic poet, but otherwise ill-living and avaricious.

"as has been stated about him in the Storks [i.e. in the commentary on that play], as someone who because of his miserliness wouldn’t allow anyone to visit him, because of his hoarding of money and stingy way of life.”
**IG ii² 2325G.20**

- List of victorious tragic poets at the Lenaea
c.a. 380 BC

Hoffmann: Patrok[les], Snell: Polychar[es]
Millis & Olson 206: “Both names seem slightly too long for the space available, and any restoration amounts to little more than a guess”.

**Patrokles - prosopography**

- Kirchner (1903): PA 1692 – identifies the rich miser as a tragic poet
- Osborne & Byrne, LGPN^3 (1994): (4) – appears to accept Kirchner’s tragic poet as the rich miser

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**Clouds 833-7**

Εὕστομει καὶ μηδὲν ἐπὶς φλαύρουν ἀνδρὰς δεξιοὺς καὶ νοῦν ἔχοντας, ἵνα ὑπὸ τῆς φειδωλίας ἀπεκείρατ' οὐδὲς πώποτ' οὐδ' ἰέλισατο οὐδ' εἰς βαλανεῖον ἦλθε λουσόμενος.

Hold your tongue and don’t say anything silly against clever and intelligent men; because of their stinginess not one of them has ever had a hair-cut or anointed himself with oil or entered a bath-house to wash.

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**Lakonomania**

- *Birds* 1285-3: “Everybody used to be Spartan-mad, they wore their hair long, they ate a meagre diet, they were filthy, they behaved like Sokrates, they carried staffs.”
- *Lysistrata* 279-80: “Not even kleomenes, who captured this place first, got away unscathed. Although he breathed a Spartan spirit, he still surrendered his weapons to me and departed, wearing a short coarse cloak, starving, filthy, unshaven, without a bath for six years.”
- *Platon* F 132: “You quite enjoy, I suspect, putting him in check and knocking him down, that man with the lifelong beard, with hair like rope, filthy knuckles, and a tunic that drags in the dirt”. [cited as an example of comic caricatures of the Spartans]
Σ Wealth 84b
• εἷς ἢ δὲ οὗτος τῶν τὸν Λακωνικόν ζηλούντων βίον
• “He [Patrokles] was one of those who emulated the Spartan way of life”.

Patrokles
• (1) PAA 768600 – archon basileus in 403, involved in financial litigation following the fall of the Thirty (Isokrates i.8.5-8);
• (2) PAA 768625 – son of Pasikles, tamias of Athena in 377/6 (IG ii 1141);
• (3) PAA 768635 – of the tribe Aigeis, epistatēs in 421/0 (IG i 79.4);
• (4) PAA 768645 – of the deme Alopeke, athlothetes at the Panathenaia in 406/5 (IG i 378.10);
• (5) PAA 768650 – son of Chairedemos, maternal half-brother of Sokrates (Plat. Euthyd. 297e).

Nails’s Patrokles
• postulates a single prominent Patrokles in the early 4th century:
  • the komoidoumenos
  • (1) the ex-archon
  • (4) the athlothetes from Alopeke
  • (5) Sokrates’ half-brother
### Bibliography

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