

5. R. G. Austin, *P. Vergilii Maronis Aeneidos Liber Quartus*, 1955, *ad loc.* I sent an early draft of this note to Roland Austin, and received a characteristically kind and sensitive reply. He found the idea attractive, and added that he would ponder it and write again in more detail. Sadly, this was the last letter I was to receive from him.
6. It may be only coincidence, but it is cannot escape notice that the adverbial ablative *ritu*, similar to *more*, occurs in both passages of Livy, following the genitive plural *ferarum*.
7. Five examples are reported, from Tibullus, Propertius and Lygdamus, together with one from Virgil (*Aen.* II. 159.)

10. JUVENAL'S RHINOCERUS

JUVENAL VII, 129-130

sic Pedo conturbat, Matho deficit, exitus hic est
 Tongilii, magno cum rhinocerote lavari
 qui solet et vexat lutulenta balnea turba,
 perque forum iuvenes longo premit assere Maedos
 empturus pueros argentum murrina villas...

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WHAT exactly is the bath-toy which the *causidicus* Tongilius is in the habit of taking with him to the baths? Lawyers in Rome had to maintain an opulent life-style, even if brought them to bankruptcy: evidently the portly Matho has fallen on lean days since his prosperous appearance in the well-ordered cavalcade near the start of satire I (line 32). Martial mentions a Pedo (V. 5, 6), in a literary context, and also a Tongilius (II. 40), whose health has been undermined by gluttony; his doctors have failed to diagnose the cause of his fever, and ordered him to take the waters, which meant frequenting the public baths. Both can however reasonably be identified with Juvenal's victims here, and together with Matho make up a trio of lawyers who have failed to stand the financial pace of their profession. Yet only Theodore Birt among the critics has seen fit to enquire into the matter of the rhinoceros, mentioned in considerable detail in the extended relative clause of 130-1. Since he published the solution in an out-of-the-way place,¹ and left his account fuzzy at the edges, restatement is called for to rescue a characteristically brilliant vignette of Juvenal from oblivion.

Editors inform us with depressing unanimity that *rhinocerote* here means a large oil-flask made out of rhinoceros-horn (or shaped like one), which Tongilius took with him to the baths. Such an object is known from Martial (XIV. 52), but is not exactly a luxury article, nor one which, once acquired, would have been a drain on its owner's finances, which the context might lead one to expect here. More serious, the preposition *cum* is suspect, since it cannot be used with instrumental force in literary Latin.²

What draws the attention of the public to Tongilius is something quite different: a pet rhino or rather rhino-calf which accompanies him on his shopping expedition, passing the baths on the way. Thus *cum* assumes its normal comitative function, and *lutulenta*, properly understood, acquires a point otherwise lacking. As Tongilius' professional status required that any

retinue (*turba*) in attendance on him should be sprucely turned out and not mud-stained, *lutulenta* must carry the more sophisticated sense of 'mud-spattering', *lutum faciente*, exactly as *sitiente rubeta* at satire I. 70 means *sitim faciente*: 'toad-stool poison which makes the eater of it thirsty'. This idiom is not uncommon but often passes unnoticed³. So we recover a pleasing picture: Tongilius' extravagant piece of self-advertisement annoys the other bathers (*vexat balnea* means *vexat balnea frequentantes*)⁴, by the shower of mud thrown up by his unconventional escort.

Juvenal has chosen his words with his usual care. The creature is given the epithet *magno*, which I take to mean 'big in comparison with other pets', not 'a large full-grown' specimen, for which I would have expected him to have used *grandi*, on the analogy of *grandis natu*. And while it is assumed in current works of reference that such animals were brought to Italy by sea, reflection suggests that the exotic big game in Roman menageries must have been imported from their habitats when still young, if only because when fully-grown they would have been too bulky to be transported in ships of the size then available and a sea-crossing at some point in the journey was unavoidable. The average dimensions of ancient cargo-carrying vessels are now well-known, and while mature elephants might be ferried over slow-flowing rivers on rafts (such as Hannibal contrived for crossing the Rhone), this is hardly in question even for short sea-crossings in difficult waters. It seems inescapable: the beasts on show in Imperial amphitheatres came over as calves or cubs and Tongilius will have been, as it were, 'puppy-walking' his chosen specimen⁵. A young creature is also more easily domesticated than a full-grown beast from the wild, and we know from Varro (*L. L. V. 100*) that the Romans succeeded in taming even such unlikely beasts as tigers.

Some further details remain. Pets of various kinds were commonly given as presents in antiquity, but Tongilius was probably in advance of the fashion in his animal-eccentricity. Three later Emperors, if there is a substrate of truth underlying the *Scriptores Historiae Augustae*, possessed or were interested in menageries: Antoninus Pius (vit. 10, 4; p. 44, Hohl), Elagabalus (vit. 28, 3; p. 244, Hohl) and Philip II (Gordian, vit. 33, 1; p. 55, Hohl). In each case rhinos are mentioned, in common with hippopotami, crocodiles and other big game; Philip used all the 50-odd beasts he took over from his predecessor Gordian III in the spectacular shows put on to celebrate Rome's millenary in 247 A. D. Secondly, the name Tongilius is not frequent, but occurs in inscriptions found in Rome, as at *CIL VI. 27547, 27548* and *27549*, where the nomenclature suggests in each case a person of substance, though none can be identified with the man mentioned by Martial and Juvenal. The name however has a non-Latin ring, and if we are to look for a provincial origin for it, a funeral

inscription for a lady named Tongilia, who died aged 85 in Mauretania Sitifensis (*CIL VIII, 8970*, from Bougie, Tunisia) may furnish a clue. If this link, tenuous though it is, could be substantiated, an interesting reflection arises: the lawyer Tongilius would be among the first of that profession to have come to Rome from Africa, which Juvenal some 20 lines later (148-9) calls *nutricula causidicorum*. One remembers the Elder Pliny: *ex Africa semper aliquid novi*: in this instance not only an exotic pet, but its eccentric lawyer-owner too appear, to take Juvenal's editors as well as his readers by surprise.

NOTES

1. T. BIRT, *Kritik und Hermeneutik nebst Abriss des antiken Buchwesens*, I, 3 (C. H. Beck, München, 1913), p. 104. The suggestion goes back to a seminar of F. Bücheler, but was not, it seems, followed up in print. It had occurred independently to my colleague, Mr. J. D. P. Bolton, lately of Queen's College, and also to Mr. J. E. C. Palmer, when an undergraduate at Hertford College, as I subsequently discovered.
2. See K.-STEGMANN, vol. I, p. 550(d). After Accius (fr. 422R: *cum corona conestat caput*), the next instance is in Nepotianus (ix. 10) *cum gladio...Philippum occidit*.
3. Instances occur mostly in verse authors; so, to take examples from Juvenal, *garrula securi narrare pericula nautae*, (XII. 82: 'dangers which make sailors talkative'); *anxia...epistula*, (IV. 149); *gelidas...ciculas*, (VII. 206). It is possible to understand *turba* in its alternative sense of 'disturbance' here, but this is less likely in view of passages such as Plut. *praec. ger. rep.* 31, οὐδ' ἐνοχλῶν οἰκετῶν πλήθει περὶ λούτρον and Juvenal's *pinguia crura luto...* in his crowd-scene in III. 247 f.
4. As e. g. *theatra* in the sense of *theatra frequentantes* at Cic. *de orat.* III. 196: *theatra tota reclamant*.
5. In 1513 a traveller in Portugal was shown an Indian rhinoceros. By that time ships were, I am told, becoming larger, and the Portugese were great navigators. In view however of the immense quantity of fodder which a full-grown rhino would need on a voyage of any length, it would seem likely that this animal too was imported when young. There is scope for rewarding research here by an interested naturalist.

FESTINAT SENEX,

OR

An Old Man in a Hurry,

*being an assortment of
unpublished essays on problems in
Greek and Latin literature and archaeology,
together with reprints of three articles*

*by***JOHN G. GRIFFITH***(Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford)*

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AN OLD MAN IN A HURRY

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