

Facing the Plague and the Goths: A New
Passage from the *Scythica Vindobonensia*
(*Codex Vindobonensis hist. gr.* 73,
fol. 192^r, lines 13–30)

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THIS ARTICLE presents for the first time 18 new manuscript lines (averaging 34 letters per line), 55% of one page, of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, new historical fragments dealing with invasions of “Scythians” into the Roman Empire around the middle of the third century A.D. These fragments have been preserved in a palimpsest in the Austrian National Library in Vienna¹ and are universally assigned to the *Scythika* of the contemporary historian Dexippus of Athens. The new text is part of a narrative of a Scythian invasion into Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece which has been dated to ca. 254 or the early 260s.² It immediately precedes a section of two manuscript pages that has already been published (fols. 192^v+193^r).³ In addition to unknown information about the Gothic

¹ For the discovery see J. Grusková, *Untersuchungen zu den griechischen Palimpsesten der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek* (Vienna 2010) 50–53. See also *Acknowledgments* below.

² On parallel sources, which seem to describe the same invasion, see below, especially the section on *Date*.

³ See G. Martin and J. Grusková, “Dexippus Vindobonensis (?)”. Ein neues Handschriftenfragment zum sog. Herulereinfall der Jahre 267/268,” *WS* 127 (2014) 101–120; the authors retracted this dating already in Grusková and Martin, *Tyche* 29 (2014) 38–39 (see n.6 below), and J. Grusková and G. Martin, “Rückkehr zu den Thermopylen: Die Fortsetzung einer Erfolgsgeschichte in den neuen Fragmenten Dexipps von Athen,” in

campaign, the new lines offer a contemporary glimpse into catastrophic events in Rome at that time, in particular the so-called ‘Plague of Cyprian.’⁴

Decipherment

Thoroughly washed off the parchment and largely covered by later writing, the text of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* alias *Dexippus Vindobonensis* is very hard to retrieve. Its decipherment has been a labour-intensive and time-consuming task, which is ongoing. This process relies on a combination of in-depth palaeographical analysis and careful philological scrutiny. It has been essential to cooperate closely with specialists in the digital recovery (i.e. imaging and image processing) of written artefacts who by applying state-of-the-art methods have rendered the remnants of the erased writing visible.

Since the discovery two research projects have focused on further deciphering, examining, and editing the Vienna fragments (see *Acknowledgments* below). The final goal has been their comprehensive critical edition (*editio princeps*) and analysis.⁵ The first stage of this work drew on special images of the eight pages of the palimpsest collected by methods of multispectral capture and advanced image processing. The results were preliminary transcriptions (accompanied by studies on the text) of six pages: fol. 195^{rv} (= fr. Ia+Ib), fol. 194^{rv} (= fr. IIa+IIb)—both belonging to an invasion of 250–251⁶—and the already mentioned

Ch. Schubert et al. (eds.), *Das dritte Jahrhundert. Kontinuitäten, Brüche, Übergänge. Ergebnisse der Tagung der Mommsen-Gesellschaft am 21.-22.11.2014 an der Bergischen Universität Wuppertal* (Stuttgart 2017) 267–281, at 269–270.

⁴ See the bibliography on the *Scythica Vindobonensia* in F. Mitthof, G. Martin, and J. Grusková (eds.), *Empire in Crisis: Gothic Invasions and Roman Historiography* (Vienna 2020 [Tyche Suppl. 12]) 565–570 (Anhang III).

⁵ The first volume of the edition, containing fol. 195^{rv} (fr. I) and fol. 194^{rv} (fr. II), will be published by the authors of this article in due course.

⁶ See G. Martin and J. Grusková, “‘Scythica Vindobonensia’ by Dexippus(?): New Fragments on Decius’ Gothic Wars,” *GRBS* 54 (2014) 728–754; J. Grusková and G. Martin, “Ein neues Textstück aus den ‘Scythica Vindo-

fol. 192^v+193^r (= fr. IIIb+IIIc).⁷ The text on fol. 192^r (= fr. IIIa) and fol. 193^v (= fr. III d) was of such poor legibility that additional methods of recovery were required.

This article now offers the first fruits of the decipherment and the philological and historical analysis of fol. 192^r lines 13–30.⁸ More than ten years of work have been necessary to arrive at the current degree of legibility of these 18 new lines. A large number and variety of special images have been created. We have thoroughly examined each one in order to detect all surviving information on the underlying writing. One can recognize about twenty characters of the undertext with the naked eye (*fig. 1*). The multispectral imaging (MSI) and special image processing has rendered accessible, scattered over the page, about 100 identifiable characters and a number of faint strokes that probably belong to the undertext (*fig. 2*). By arranging a high-tech experiment of fast-scanning XRF element mapping at a synchrotron we collected scans of individual elements, such as iron, calcium, etc. present in the Vienna folios. It turned out that the original ink has been almost completely removed and left no more than ‘footprints’ in the parchment. Years of processing and examining every single area followed (*fig. 3–4*). Some general limitations of XRF scans affected the work. Resolution is low in this kind of measuring experiment (this contrasts with the very high resolution of MSI images) and information on the text from the other side of the parchment

bonensia’ zu den Ereignissen nach der Eroberung von Philippopolis,” *Tyche* 29 (2014) 29–43; “Zum Angriff der Goten unter Kniva auf eine thrakische Stadt (*Scythica Vindobonensia*, f. 195^v),” *Tyche* 30 (2015) 35–53; “Neugelesener Text im Wiener Dexipp-Palimpsest (*Scythica Vindobonensia*, f. 195^v, Z. 6–10) mit Hilfe der Röntgenfluoreszenzanalyse,” *ZPE* 204 (2017) 40–46.

⁷ On the division of the text into three fragments see Martin and Grusková, in *Empire in Crisis* 543–548 (Anhang I), at 544.

⁸ The first 12 lines of the undertext on fol. 192^r are still illegible (except for a few letters). On the digital recovery see below with n.144.

leaf often appears and contaminates the relevant data. For further details on the digital recovery see *Acknowledgments* below.

Deciphering individual characters and words on the basis of the faint, fragmentary remnants of the original writing proved most demanding, sometimes impossible. The difficulties were aggravated by palaeographical peculiarities: On fols. 192^{rv}+193^{rv}, the eleventh-century scribe used many cursive elements and considerable variations in the form (minuscule/majuscule), the shape and the size of one and the same character (see *fig.* 3–4). He moved his hand obviously faster than on fols. 195^{rv} and 194^{rv}.⁹ Countless sessions of repeated examination of the images have been required to detect traces of relevant information and make progress in deciphering the faint and partly concealed characters.

Text

The transcription and the edition given below represent the current state of the decipherment. Some letters are still invisible, others are too faint to be identified with certainty. A dot under a letter indicates that the letter is still doubtful. Given the remaining uncertainties, the wording, and hence the meaning, may change in the future. It will require a great deal of additional effort to make further progress in recovering and deciphering the text. Considering the unique evidence contained in the new passage, we have decided to make our preliminary results available at this stage despite some degree of uncertainty. We thereby hope to initiate a discussion on the new pas-

⁹ On the manuscript see G. De Gregorio, E. Gamillscheg, J. Grusková, O. Kresten, G. Martin, B. Mondrain, and N. Wilson, “Palaeographical and Codicological Remarks on the Vienna Dextippus Palimpsest,” in *Empire in Crisis* 5–13; see also J. Grusková and G. De Gregorio, “Neue paläographische Einblicke in einige palimpsestierte Handschriften aus den griechischen Beständen der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek,” in C. Rapp et al. (eds.), *New Light on Old Manuscripts: The Sinai Palimpsests and Other Advances in Palimpsest Studies* (Vienna [in press]).

sage, the results of which will be included in the critical edition of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*.

Transcription

In the following work-in-progress transcription, the orthography and the punctuation¹⁰ of the manuscript are faithfully reproduced.¹¹ As for accents and breathing marks, only those are reproduced which have been reliably identified. Abbreviations (for -ος in lines 18 and 19, and probably -ης in 28) are resolved in round brackets. We have separated words throughout the text. The scribe apparently intended to do so but was not consistent. A hyphen has been set (by us) where a word is divided between two lines. Asterisks replace unreadable letters. Details are discussed in the commentary.

Cod. Vind. hist. gr. 73, fol. 192^r, lines 13–30 of the lower text:

- 13 τῷ ἀληθεῖ εἰκαζέτο· Ῥωμαῖοι δε *****
 14 Κινήσει τοῦ ἄστεος· πρὸς τε ἄλλοις θεῶν ἱεροῖς
 15 ἰκέτευσαν· κατὰ τὸ τῆς σιβύλλης μαντεύμα
 16 καὶ ἔθυσαν διὲ σωτήρι· καὶ ἦρα· καὶ *****
 17 ποσειδῶνι γῆς κινητορι· ἢ τε νοσος πολλῆ τε
 18 καὶ ἀδιήγητ(ος) ἐν τούτῳ ἤρετο· ἐς τε τὴν ῥω-
 19 μὴν τα πλείστα τῆς ἐλλάδ(ος) ἐγκατασκήψασα·
 20 βραχύταται μὲν γὰρ οὕτως καὶ ἐν τῷ πρὸ τοῦ
 21 αἰ διακωχαί· τότε δὲ ἐπὶ πολλῇ τῇ αἰσθήσει ἰ-
 22 σχύσεν· ἐλέχθη γε τοι ἐφ' ἡμέρα· ἐκάστη τῶν
 23 θνησκόντων· πεντακισχιλίουσ ἢ καὶ πρὸσω
 24 τοῦσ ὑπογραφεασ ἐν τῇ ῥώμῃ ἀ(ex ὑ)πογραψαῖ τε-
 25 *****· **δ* δη τρυγητοῦ ὄρα ἀρκτου-

¹⁰ The Byzantine system of punctuation is not identical with the modern one.

¹¹ The legibility of the left margin is insufficient to verify if horizontal strokes with a dot above and below have been inserted here as on other pages of the manuscript.

- 26 ρου συνθέοντος· σκυθῶν οἱ δὴ γούθοι κε-
 27 κλημένοι ἡγουμένου γουθουρικού σφῶν ὃς
 28 ηρχε τῆς πάσης στρατιᾶς. ἄρτι εκ τῆς φυγ(ῆς)
 29 κατακληθεῖς ναυσὶ πορευθέντες ὑπὲρ τοῦ
 30 ἴστρου τὸν πόρον; εἰσέβαλλον εἷς τε θρά-ll

Edition and translation

In the following preliminary edition, accentuation, breathing marks, and punctuation have been normalized. Abbreviations have been resolved. The first letter of proper nouns has been capitalized. Since the Vienna manuscript is the *codex unicus* for this text, all the letters we have added (including the *iota mutum*, which the eleventh-century scribe never wrote) are in pointed brackets < >. In lines 17, 21, and 25, we have emended assumed scribal errors, providing the spelling of the codex in round brackets (“... Cod.”), in smaller print. In lines 13, 16, and 25, asterisks replace unreadable letters. The lines of the manuscript page have been numbered for convenience of reference. Further details are described in the commentary.

In the translation, renderings and additions based on uncertain readings have been printed in italics. For the invisible text in lines 13 and 25 we offer hypothetical supplements in round brackets and in italics; in line 16, we have preferred not to suggest any translation and used three dots instead.

Scythica Vindobonensia, fr. IIIa (fol. 192^r) 13–30:¹²

Ῥωμαῖοι δὲ *****¹⁴ κινήσει τοῦ ἄστεος πρὸς τε ἄλλοις
 θεῶν ἱεροῖς¹⁵ ἰκέτευσαν κατὰ τὸ τῆς Σιβύλλης μάντευμα¹⁶
 καὶ ἔθυσαν Διὶ σωτήρι καὶ Ἑρα<ι> καὶ *****¹⁷ Ποσειδῶνι
 γῆς κινήτηρι (κινήτορι Cod.).

ἢ τε νόσος πολλή τε¹⁸ καὶ ἀδιήγητος ἐν τούτω(ι)
 ἤ<ι>ρετο, ἕς τε τὴν Ῥώ¹⁹μην <καὶ> τὰ πλεῖστα τῆς Ἑλλάδος

¹² The first words of line 13 on fol. 192^r τῷ ἀληθεῖ εἰκάζετο (see the transcription) obviously belong to the previous sentence.

ἐγκατασκήψασα. ¹²⁰ βραχύταται μὲν γὰρ οὕτως καὶ ἐν τῶ(ι) πρὸ τοῦ ¹²¹ αἰ διακωχάι, τότε δὲ ἐπὶ πολὺ (πολλῆ Cod.) τῆ(ι) αἰσθήσει ἵ²²σχυσεν· ἐλέχθη γέ τοι ἐφ' ἡμέρα(ι) ἐκάστη(ι) τῶν ¹²³ θνη(ι)σκόντων πεντακισχιλίους ἢ καὶ πρόσω ¹²⁴ τοῦς ὑπογραφέας ἐν τῆ(ι) Ῥώμη(ι) ἀπογράψαι τε²⁵*****.

**δ* δὴ τρυγίτου (τρυγητοῦ Cod.) ὥρα(ι) Ἀρκτού²⁶ρου συνθέοντος, Σκυθῶν οἱ δὲ Γούθοι κε²⁷κλημένοι, ἡγουμένου Γουθουρίκου σφῶν, ὃς ¹²⁸ ἦρχε τῆς πάσης στρατιᾶς ἄρτι ἐκ τῆς φυγῆς ¹²⁹ κατακληθείς, ναυσὶ πορευθέντες ὑπὲρ τοῦ ¹³⁰ Ἴστρου τὸν πόρον εἰσέβαλλον εἰς τε Θρά(ι)λλ^(fol. 192v)κην καὶ Μακεδονίαν καὶ ἐληίζοντο τὴν αὐτό¹³θι γῆν σύμπασαν.¹³

The Romans, (*upon this*) (com)motion of the city, asked for mercy at other temples of the gods, in accordance with the *oracle* of the Sibyl, and sacrificed to Zeus the Saviour, to Hera, ... to Poseidon, Mover of the Earth.

And at this time the disease *grew* severe and indescribable, having struck Rome (and) most of Greece. For, while the intermissions had been very brief in this way also in the past, at that time it [*scil.* the disease] became greatly overbearing because of how it manifested itself. *At least* it was reported that the *hypographeis* in Rome registered 5000 or even more dead (*who succumbed to this disease*) every day.

And, at the time of the vintage, with which the rising of Arcturus coincides, those of the Scythians who are called Goths—led by Gouthourikos, who commanded the entire army, having just been recalled from his exile—took the way across the Istros in ships, invaded Thrall^(fol. 192v)ce and Macedonia and ravaged all the land there.

Commentary

The text forms part of the beginning of a narrative unit that deals with a new invasion of “Scythians” into the territory of the Roman Empire. It can be divided into three parts; the last one continues in lines 1–12 of fol. 192^v:

¹³ For the continuation see Appendix I below.

- (A) fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) lines 13–17 (Ῥωμαῖοι δὲ ... κινήτηρι);
 (B) fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) lines 17–25 (ἢ τε νόσος ... ἀπογράφαι
 τε*****);
 (C) fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) lines 25–30 + fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) lines 1–
 2 (**δ* δὴ τρυγίτου ὄρα(ι) ... γῆν σύμπασαν).

In A and B the author briefly describes the situation in which Rome found herself when the new invasion started (192^r 13–25). Then, in C, he first clarifies the chronology (192^r 25–26) and succinctly introduces the invaders and their commander (192^r 26–29). What follows is a very concise report of the first actions of the Goths on Roman territory: They cross the Istros, i.e. the Danube (192^r 29–30), and invade and plunder the entire (provinces of) Thrace and Macedonia (192^v 1–2).

In the subsequent text (fr. IIIb+IIIc), after fleetingly mentioning an unsuccessful siege of Thessalonica (192^v 2–7), the author announces the intention of the Goths to advance on Athens and Achaia (192^v 7–12) because of the riches stored in sanctuaries there. In line 13 of fol. 192^v a new section begins, and the attention turns to the Greeks. After news of the Scythians' advance has reached them, the Greeks take defensive measures against the invaders at Thermopylae, including the fortification of the pass. A Roman commander Marianus, an Athenian Philostratus, and a Boeotarch Dexippus are named as the generals elected to supervise the forces. The beginning of an address by Marianus to the troops follows.¹⁴

¹⁴ See Martin and Grusková, *WS* 127 (2014) 101–120, and Grusková and Martin, in *Das dritte Jahrhundert* 267–281, at 268–270, including important corrections; see also, e.g., C. P. Jones “Further Fragments of Dexippus,” at https://www.academia.edu/11913736/Further_Dexippus_online_ (April 2015), updated (July 2016) by “Further Fragments of Dexippus (2),” https://www.academia.edu/26199041/Further_Dexippus_2_ (both last accessed 25 Nov. 2022); Ch. Mallan and C. Davenport, “Dexippus and the Gothic Invasions: Interpreting the New Vienna Fragment,” *JRS* 105 (2015) 203–226; I. Piso, “Bemerkungen zu Dexippos Vindobonensis (I),” *GFA* 18 (2015) 199–215; J. McInerney, *Dexippus (FGrHist 100 Revised)*, *Brill's New*

The text deciphered so far breaks off with the end of fol. 193^r (fr. IIIc) in the middle of Marianus' speech. The hitherto recovered parts of the following page, fol. 193^v (fr. IIIId), are still too fragmentary to permit any conclusions about its content, except that the speech continued. The attention that Dexippus pays to and the way he describes the defensive measures taken against the invaders at Thermopylae, including Marianus' speech, suggest that a victory over Gouthourikos and his Gothic army followed.¹⁵ One parallel account, in the *Historia Augusta* (*Gall.* 5.2–6.1), reports that the Goths were defeated in Achaia and then withdrew (6.1 *pugnatum est in Ach(a)ia Mariano duce contra eosdem Gothos, unde victi per Ach(a)eos recesserunt*).¹⁶ Other sources—Zosimus (1.29.2–3), George Syncellus (466.1–7 Mosshammer), and Zonaras (12.23, III 139.26–140.1 Dindorf)—which seem to describe events from the same invasion, further mention that the Athenians refortified their city and the Peloponnesians built a wall across the Isthmus. Syncellus also notes that the invaders left with much plunder (466.7 οἱ δὲ Σκύθαι μετὰ πολλῶν λαφύρων εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθον).

Three texts are of particular interest because of their obvious inter- and intratextual relationship to the new passage. These are discussed more broadly in the section on *Inter- and intratextual relationships*, but details are cited throughout the commentary. To facilitate reference, the second text in question is quoted in full in Appendix II, the first and the third in that section. The three texts are:

1) Passages in Thucydides' *History* in which he refers to or describes the plague that struck Athens in 430–426 B.C.: 1.23.3

Jacoby online—Second Edition (2019).

¹⁵ See Grusková and Martin, in *Das dritte Jahrhundert* 269–270; Piso, *GFA* 18 (2015) 215; for a more elaborate scenario see Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 221.

¹⁶ We follow the edition of E. Hohl, *Scriptores Historiae Augustae* II³ (Leipzig 1971); see Appendix II below.

(an announcement of the plague in the chapter on the reasons and the sufferings of the war), 2.47.3–4 (the beginning of a detailed account of the plague), and 3.87.1–4 (its second outbreak).

2) The aforementioned section of the *HA Life of Gallienus* (5.2–6.1).

3) A passage in the recently identified prooemium of Dexippus' *Scythika*, i.e. the work to which the *Scythica Vindobonensia* (in all likelihood) belong. The prooemium has survived among the excerpts from Dexippus in *De sententiis* in the anthology commissioned by Constantine VII (945–959) and transmitted in the palimpsest *Vat. gr. 73*.¹⁷ The passage in question covers fol. 54^r (p. 107) lines 10–15.

(A) *Cod. Vind. hist. gr. 73*, fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) lines 13–17
(the lemmata have been taken from the edition)

13–14 Ῥωμαῖοι δὲ ***** ἰκινήσει τοῦ ἄστεος (“The Romans, (upon this) (com)motion of the city”):

The scribe marks a new section: An initial letter *kappa* in κινήσει is set at the beginning of line 14, the first complete line of the section (see *fig. 2* and 4). This *kappa* is written in a majuscule form and is approximately three times larger than the *kappas* in the text. It extends beyond the ruled frame into the left margin. A different ink, apparently of a reddish hue, was used. Similar initials occur in the manuscript elsewhere, signalling a new section or paragraph, e.g. in fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) 13, where the narrative shifts from one group (the Scythians) to another (the Greeks) (see Appendix I).¹⁸

¹⁷ The prooemium was deciphered and identified by András Németh of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana thanks to new advances in the digital recovery of the palimpsest: A. Németh, “Dexippus in the *Excerpta Constantiniana* Revisited: The Preface to Dexippus' *Scythica*,” in *Empire in Crisis* 111–134.

¹⁸ In line 13 there is a blank space of about two characters before Ῥωμαῖοι, which may also (but need not) have served to signal the start of the

The visible letters δε after Ῥωμαῖοι in line 13 could belong to the particle δέ (there is a faint stroke above the *epsilon* that may have been a gravis accent). Since the preceding lines (192^r 1–12) are still illegible, it remains unknown whether this δέ (if correctly identified) indicates a shift to a new topic or if the same topic is continued and δέ is connective.

Ῥωμαῖοι is the subject of the sentence in lines 13–17. This is the only use of the term “Romans” so far in the narrative in the *Scythica Vindobonensia*.¹⁹ The context, especially the mention of the ἄστυ, may suggest that these are the inhabitants of the city of Rome. The meaning could, however, also be wider (e.g. the population of the Roman Empire).

The characters at the end of line 13 are illegible. As the lines on this page do not all have the same length (see *fig. 3*; the difference is equal to the space of 1–3 letters), one could think of various conjectures: e.g. ἐν/ἐπὶ ταύτη(τ) τῆ(τ) (“upon this”) or ἐν/ἐπὶ αὐτῆ(τ) τῆ(τ) (“upon just this”).²⁰

τοῦ ἄστεος: The scribe uses the termination -ος for the genitive of τὸ ἄστυ, as in fol. 195^r (fr. Ia) 17,²¹ a form common in imperial Greek prose.²² The mention of the Romans and the *Sibylline Books* indicates that ἄστυ is a shorthand for the city of

new section.

¹⁹ The only other occurrence is in a speech, Marianus’ address to the “Greek” army in fol. 193^r (fr. IIIc) 17–22, and it refers to events in 191 B.C.: οἱ πρόγονοι ὑμῶν ... Ῥωμαῖοις ἀρχούσιν ἤδη συνιστάμενοι.

²⁰ The visible remnants do not favour ἐν τῆ(τ)δε τῆ(τ).

²¹ The genitive sg. of τὸ ἄστυ occurs also in fol. 195^v (fr. Ib) 4, but the penultimate character has not yet been rendered visible to the degree that one can decide, which of the two forms was written there.

²² It is not used in the ‘old’ fragments of Dexippus; the spelling ἄστεος occurs twice in fr.22 Martin (*Skythika*) (= fr.28 Mecella, *FGrHist* 100 F 25) and once in fr.27 Martin (*Skythika*) (= fr.33 Mecella, *FGrHist* F 29). Fragment numbers are given according to F. Jacoby, *FGrHist*; G. Martin, *Dexipp von Athen* (Tübingen 2006); L. Mecella, *Dexippo di Atene* (Tivoli 2013). Cf. also McInerney in *Brill’s New Jacoby online*.

Rome (like *urbs*).²³

The word (ἡ) κίνησις can mean “motion/movement” in a political sense, but can also refer to a “motion/shaking” of the ground, i.e. an earthquake.²⁴ In this instance, the latter meaning is supported by the information that the Romans sacrificed to “Poseidon, Mover of the Earth” (see the commentary on line 17). The corresponding report in *HA Gall.* 5–6 mentions both political upheaval and a severe earthquake (5.2 *inter tot bellicas clades etiam terrae motus gravissimus fuit*; 5.4 *mota est et Roma, mota Libya*; 5.6 *terrae motus*). We prefer to withhold the final decision on the meaning of this word and give a neutral translation until the preceding text (192^r 1–12) has been recovered. In any case, it is obvious that what we read in the *Scythica Vindobonensia* has a wording very close to *HA Gall.* 5.

Irrespective of the meaning of κίνησις, the sacrifices to “Poseidon, Mover of the Earth” strongly suggest that the *Scythica Vindobonensia* reported one or more earthquakes that struck the Romans, in line with the *HA*. Nicholas Ambraseys emphasises that it is not inconceivable that the *HA* synthesised several separate earthquakes, which took place within a few months or even years of each other.²⁵ For Asia Minor, a catastrophic earthquake has been attested archaeologically in

²³ This meaning of ἄστυ is common in imperial literature, cf. e.g. Cass. Dio 40.48.1 *τοιαύτης οὖν τότε τῆς ἐν τῷ ἄστει καταστάσεως οὐσης...*

²⁴ Both meanings of the noun or the verb κινέω are attested in Thucydides: war is a human motion (1.1.2 κίνησις ... αὐτῆ μεγίστη ... ἐγένετο of the Peloponnesian war; 3.82.1 *πάν ... τὸ Ἑλληνικὸν ἐκινήθη*; cf. 3.75.3), earthquakes a non-human motion (2.8.3 *Δῆλος ἐκινήθη ... πρότερον οὐπω σεισθεῖσα*). See S. N. Jaffe, *Thucydides on the Outbreak of War: Character and Contest* (Oxford 2017) 68 with n.29.

²⁵ N. Ambraseys, *Earthquakes in the Mediterranean and Middle East: A Multi-disciplinary Study of Seismicity up to 1900* (Cambridge 2009) 137–139, esp. 138. See also E. Guidoboni, A. Comastri, and G. Traina, *Catalogue of Ancient Earthquakes in the Mediterranean Area up to the 10th Century* (Rome 1994) 241–245.

Ephesus.²⁶ Cyrene in Libya seems to have been destroyed by an earthquake about this time, for large parts of the city were rebuilt during the reign of Claudius II (268–270).²⁷ In the ‘old’ fragments of Dexippus, i.e. those known before the discovery of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* (*FGrHist* 100/Martin 2006/Mecella 2013), no mention of an earthquake is made. However, in the recently deciphered prooemium to the *Skythika*, Dexippus mentions earthquakes (*Vat. gr.* 73, fol. 54^r [p. 107] 13 σεισμοίς; quoted below in context) among those sufferings which occurred during the war and which he will describe along with the military events.

14–17 πρὸς τε ἄλλοις θεῶν ἱεροῖς | ἰκέτευσαν κατὰ τὸ τῆς
Σιβύλλης μάντευμα | καὶ ἔθυσαν Διὶ σωτῆρι καὶ Ἥρα(ι) καὶ ***** |
Ποσειδῶνι γῆς κινήτῃρι (κινήτορι Cod.) (“asked for mercy at other
temples of the gods, in accordance with the *oracle* of the Sibyl,
and sacrificed to Zeus the Saviour, to Hera, ... to Poseidon,
Mover of the Earth”):

In κατὰ τὸ τῆς Σιβύλλης μάντευμα, the reference is obviously to the *Libri Sibyllini*. Romans of the Republican era turned to them traditionally after disquieting omens, in wars or in times of extraordinary natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, plague, and the like.²⁸ Such events were understood as *prodigia*, i.e. as an expression of divine anger, which made atonement necessary. In accordance with a Senate resolution, the secret books, written in Greek, were consulted by the *XVviri sacris faciundis* to restore the *pax deorum* (cf. Varro *Rust.* 1.1.3; Liv. 10.47.6–7). After the original *Sibylline Books* were destroyed in a fire in 83 B.C. (Dion. Hal. *Ant.Rom.* 4.62), a reconstructed ver-

²⁶ S. Ladstätter and A. Pülz, “Ephesus in the Late Roman and Early Byzantine Period,” in A. Poulter (ed.), *The Transition to Late Antiquity on the Danube and Beyond* (Oxford 2007) 391–434, at 394–397.

²⁷ See Ambraseys, *Earthquakes* 138 (with further bibliography).

²⁸ In connection with earthquakes the *Books* were consulted e.g. in 174 B.C. (Liv. 41.28.2), with plagues in 348 B.C. (7.27.1) and 293 B.C. (10.47.6).

sion was reportedly consulted down to the fourth century A.D., though information is scarce:²⁹ we hear of four consultations in the third century A.D. A dubious one is reported in *Aur. Vict. Caes.* 34.3 and *Epit. de Caes.* 34.3 (under Claudius II [268–270] in a context different from ours). For the other three the only source is the *HA*.

According to the *HA*, a consultation took place during the reign of Gordian III (238–244) after a violent earthquake.³⁰ The *Books* were allegedly consulted again, as *HA Aurel.* 18.4–5 reports, during an invasion by the Marcomanni under Aurelian (270–275). The third attestation in the *HA* is at *Gall.* 5.5, *pax igitur deum quaesita inspectis Sibyll(a)e libris factu(m)que Iovi Salutari, ut praeceptum fuerat, sacrificium* (“the favour of the gods was sought by consulting the *Sibylline Books* and sacrifices to Iuppiter Salutaris were performed in accordance with their order”)—part of the passage that correlates closely throughout with fr. III of the Vienna palimpsest. The events are dated by the *HA* to “the consulship of Gallienus and Faustianus,”³¹ i.e. 262, and the context is a mixture of disasters, comprising defeats in war and natural catastrophes.³²

It seems obvious that *HA Gall.* 5.5 and the *Scythica Vindobonensia* are speaking of the same consultation. In addition, it is

²⁹ Cf. H. W. Parke, *Sibyls and Sibylline Prophecy in Classical Antiquity* (London 1988) 206–212, 215; D. S. Potter, *Prophecy and History in the Crisis of the Roman Empire: A Historical Commentary on the Thirteenth Sibylline Oracle* (Oxford 1990) 109–114. The text of the *Books* was not itself publicly available, but the Senate proclaimed (in Latin) the instructions for the specific situation after their consultation, cf. Lactant. *Div. Inst.* 1.6.13.

³⁰ *HA Gord.* 26.1–2: *Fuit terrae motus eo usque gravis imperante Gordiano, ut civitates etiam terrae hiatu cum populis deperirent. ob quae sacrificia per totam urbem totumque orbem terrarum ingentia celebrata sunt. et Cordus quidem dicit inspectis libris Sibyllinis celebratisque omnibus quae illic iussa videbantur mundanum malum esse sedatum.*

³¹ On the form “Faustianus” see n.132 below.

³² On the uncertain date of these events see on *Date* below.

commonly assumed that Dexippus (presumably the *Chronika*) was the source from which the *HA* drew (for more see on *Inter- and intratextual relationships* below, under “b”).³³

In the two instances in which the consultation was prompted by natural disasters—*HA Gord.* 26.1–2 and *Gall.* 5.5—the *Libri* ordered expiatory rites. Again, these seem to be the only attestations of such rites³⁴ after the reign of Nero (*Tac. Ann.* 15.23.2).³⁵ The description that the *Scythica Vindobonensia* give matches the accounts from republican times, e.g. *Liv.* 27.11.6 (*ea prodigia hostiis maioribus procurata, et supplicatio circa omnia pulvinaria*); cf. 36.21.9 (*supplicatio in triduum decreta est et ut quadraginta hostiis maioribus praetor, quibus dis ei videretur, sacrificaret*). According to these examples, it was common practice to have, on the one hand, *supplicationes* at all temples in Rome³⁶ (cf. ἰκέτευσσάν in line 15) and, on the other hand, sacrifices of animals to specific gods (cf. ἔθυσσάν in line 16).

The fact that both consultations of the *Libri* and expiatory rites in Rome had been attested only in the *HA*—often disparaged as a historical source—has led to their historicity being questioned.³⁷ Now the *Scythica Vindobonensia* back up the ac-

³³ It is likely that the consultation in *HA Gord.* 26.1–2 was also taken from Dexippus. The consultation under Aurelian, however, cannot have been reported in the *Chronika*, which ended with the reign of Claudius in 269. It may have been mentioned in the *Skythika*, but the *HA* probably did not use this work. Cf. the commentary by F. Paschoud, *Histoire Auguste* V.1 (Paris 1996) 116–118, who assumes that this invasion by the Marcomani is the same as that by the Iuthungi in Dexippus fr.28 Martin (= fr.34 Mecella, *FGHist* F 6).

³⁴ Supplications in general are attested during this period, but these are thanksgiving rites, cf. e.g. R. Selinger, *Die Religionspolitik des Kaisers Decius* (Frankfurt am Main 1994) 52–76.

³⁵ The evidence has last been collected by L. Halkin, *La supplication d'action de grâces chez les Romains* (Paris 1953) 10.

³⁶ Cf. K. Latte, *Römische Religionsgeschichte* (Munich 1960) 245–246.

³⁷ Cf. e.g. Parke, in *Sibyls* 211; F. Kolb, *Untersuchungen zur Historia Augusta*

count of *HA Gall.*³⁸ While one may be inclined to give Dexippus more credit than the *HA*, we still cannot rule out that Dexippus might be imitating descriptions of similar scenarios which he found in his predecessors' works, such as Livy and other annalists.³⁹ If, on the other hand, the account in the *Scythica Vindobonensia* is historically accurate, the lack of attestations for the *Libri* and expiatory supplications may be a consequence of the general scarcity of historiographical sources after Tacitus.

14–16 πρὸς τε ἄλλοις θεῶν ἱεροῖς | ἰκέτευσαν ... | καὶ ἔθυσαν:

The formulation seems to imitate Thuc. 2.47.4 πρὸς ἱεροῖς ἰκέτευσαν ἢ μαντείοις καὶ τοῖς τοιούτοις ἐχρήσαντο.

The expression πρὸς τε ἄλλοις ... καὶ seems to follow the pattern of ἄλλος τε ... καὶ. Since it links the two main clauses, τε is moved forward to the second place of the sentence. The antithesis is twofold: it juxtaposes supplication and blood sacrifice, and it emphasises the three deities mentioned by name over all the others. Extant parallels (such as *si deo si deae* and similar expressions, cf. e.g. Gell. 2.28.3) may suggest that ἄλλοις θεῶν ἱεροῖς comprises all gods with temples in Rome, including Zeus, Hera, and Poseidon; cf. e.g. Liv. 27.11.6 *ea prodigia hostiis maioribus procurata, et supplicatio circa omnia pulvinaria*.

15 κατὰ τὸ τῆς Σιβύλλης μάντευμα:

The letters at the end of line 15, after σιβύλλης, are, apart from τ, insufficiently visible for a reliable identification. The word μάντευμα, the oracle or prophecy of the Sibyl, would

(Bonn 1987) 138–140. The only other mention is highly dubious, as stated above.

³⁸ Further support for continued consultation of the *Books* may be lent by the attestation of the *XVviri sacris faciundis* down to the fourth century: cf. N. Hächler, *Kontinuität und Wandel des Senatorenstandes im Zeitalter der Soldatenkaiser* (Leiden 2019) 720.

³⁹ It has been established that Dexippus archaizes, e.g. in his siege descriptions: Martin, *Dexipp von Athen* 226–229.

match the faint traces of the characters and fit in with the article τὸ and the genitive τῆς Σιβύλλης. No close Greek parallel has emerged for this wording, but cf. e.g. Plin. *HN* 18.286 *ex oraculis Sibyllae* and Amm. Marc. 30.4.11 *Sibyllae oraculorum interpretes*. The supplication and the sacrifices are commonly ordered together in Latin sources; hence, we take the expression κατὰ τὸ τῆς Σιβύλλης μάντευμα in substance to refer to both ἰκέτευσαν and ἔθυσαν in lines 14–16; cf. *HA Gall.* 5.5 *ut praeceptum fuerat* (scil. *a Sibylla*).

16–17 καὶ ἔθυσαν Διὶ σωτήρι καὶ Ἥρα(ι) καὶ ***** | Ποσειδῶνι γῆς κινήτηρι (κινήτορι Cod.):

Part of the text corresponds closely to *HA Gall.* 5.5 *factu(m)que Iovi Salutari, ut praeceptum fuerat, sacrificium*. The names of Zeus, Hera, and Poseidon have been deciphered with certainty. At the end of line 16 of the manuscript, after ἥρα· και, faint traces of about five characters follow. Those characters have not been rendered sufficiently visible for reliable decipherment. The first two could be a (minuscule) *gamma* followed by a (majuscule) *eta*.⁴⁰ As for the following text, based on some visible strokes one could think of : και, but the area is too fuzzy to verify it. If γη· και were to be correct, the (edited) reading would be καὶ Ἥρα(ι) καὶ Γῆ(ι) καὶ | Ποσειδῶνι.⁴¹ However, given the poor legibility the end of line 16 must remain open for the moment.

Ζεὺς Σωτήρ or his Latin equivalent Iuppiter Salutaris, i.e. Jupiter the Saviour or Healer, is an appropriate recipient of sacrifices after serious natural catastrophes. In Greece, worship

⁴⁰ One might think of the epithet of Poseidon γηούχος, an exceedingly rare variant of γαίολχος “earth-moving / earth-carrying”; cf. e.g. Hsch. γ 512 (ed. Latte/Cunningham) γηούχος· ὁ τὴν γῆν συνέχων (an interpolation from *Lex.Rhet.*); Hesychius also provides (γ 50) γαίολχος· ὁ τὴν γῆν συνέχων.

⁴¹ Carlo M. Lucarini (*per litteras*) suggests ἀντῶ(ι). This attractive conjecture would suit the context—as it points to Poseidon’s being the most pertinent deity to pray to after an earthquake—but it does not correspond to the visible strokes.

of Ζεὺς Σωτήρ was common.⁴² Iuppiter Salutaris is occasionally referred to in Latin literary texts,⁴³ and attested in some Latin inscriptions.⁴⁴ Hera (line 16) follows Zeus, as she often does in Roman sacrifices.⁴⁵ If Γῆ(τ) (line 16) were to be correct, the Latin equivalent would be Tellus, the Roman earth-goddess.

Poseidon is called upon as god of earthquakes, κινήτωρ, “Mover of the Earth” (line 17).⁴⁶ The word κινήτωρ seems not to occur elsewhere. It could be explained as a variation on κινήτήρ, analogous to γεννήτωρ, -ορος / γεννητήρ, -ῆρος. Given the lack of attestations of κινήτωρ so far, we have assumed a scribal error and adopted κινήτηρι in the preliminary edition. The latter word is attested in the TLG twice, both times in poetry and with γῆς, as epiclesis of Poseidon, god of earthquakes (Pind. *Isthm.* 3/4.37 ὁ κινήτηρ δὲ γᾶς; *Hymn.Hom.* 22.2 γαίης κινήτηρα), and synonymous with ἐννοσίγαιος, ἐνοσίχθων, or similar. It has been pointed out that the Latin god Neptune, a water deity responsible for rivers, fresh water sources, and all

⁴² On his cult in classical Athens see R. Parker, *Athenian Religion* (Oxford 1996) 238–241; he was worshipped throughout Greece, cf. M. P. Nilsson, *Geschichte der griechischen Religion* I³ (Munich 1967) 414–416. In connection with an earthquake, Ζεὺς Σωτήρ seems to appear in a private inscription by an inhabitant of Byblos, thanking for his survival: L. Robert, “Documents d’Asie Mineure,” *BCH* 102 (1978) 395–543, at 399: [Διὶ Σω]τήρι Ἀπολλόδωρος Νίκωνο(ς) ἀπὸ σεισμοῦ διασωθεὶς ἀνέθηκεν.

⁴³ E.g. Cic. *Fin.* 3.66; Plin. *HN* 2.34.

⁴⁴ E.g. *AE* 1980, 793.1; *CIL* III 6456 [*ILS* 3025].

⁴⁵ Cf. e.g. U. Ehmgig, “Der ‘Erdbebengott Neptun’ und die ‘unbestimmten Erdbebengötter’ in lateinischen Inschriften,” in J. Borsch et al. (eds.), *Erdbeben in der Antike* (Tübingen 2016) 37–59, at 45. Along with Jupiter, Juno is one of few gods to whom sacrifices were made during the *Ludi Saeculares*. The last of these Secular Games were celebrated in 248, under Philip the Arab (244–249), on the occasion of Rome’s first millennium.

⁴⁶ See Ehmgig, in *Erdbeben* 37–59, and I. Mylonopoulos, “Poseidon und Neptun. Zwei Götter – Zwei polytheistische Systeme,” *Polifemo* 5 (2005) 240–254.

kinds of water, does not appear as linked to earthquakes and seaquakes.⁴⁷ His importance in Roman cult does not generally equal that of Poseidon in Greece.⁴⁸ Therefore, Ποσειδῶν γῆς κινήτηρ in line 17 most probably shows Greek influence.

To sum up, the combination of the three gods suits the occasion. It reflects the expiatory nature of the rite to be performed in order to bring back good fortune after the current catastrophes.

The passage in lines 14–17 reveals substantial Greek influence. The choice of gods appears to have reflected the Greek religious background of the Sibyl. If Dexippus' narrative is historically accurate, the three names were translated from the Greek of the *Sibylline Books* (which were written in Greek hexameters) into Latin and from there retranslated into Greek by Dexippus or his source(s). If, however, the information is fictitious, Dexippus or his source(s) have chosen the gods that seemed most appropriate to them, without much concern for the Roman pantheon.

(B) *Cod. Vind. hist. gr.* 73, fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) lines 17–25

17–19 ἢ τε νόσος πολλή τε | καὶ ἀδιήγητος ἐν τούτω(ι) ἦ(ι)ρετο, ἔς τε τὴν Ῥώμην (καὶ) τὰ πλείστα τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἐγκατασκήψασα (“And at this time the disease *grew* severe and indescribable, having struck Rome (and) most of Greece”):

Dexippus announces in the prooemium to the *Skythika* that he will deal with sufferings caused by a “disease,” which he characterises as “pestilential” (*Vat. gr.* 73, fol. 54^r [p. 107] 12–

⁴⁷ Inscriptions do not link Neptune with sacrifices after seismic events; cf. Ehmig, in *Erdbeben* 43. However, Neptune was included in the first *lectisternium* in 399 B.C., also ordered by the Sibyl: Dion. Hal. *Ant. Rom.* 12.9, Liv. 5.13.6. See G. Wissowa, *Religion und Kultus der Römer*² (Munich 1912) 225–227; Latte, *Religionsgeschichte* 131 with n.4. According to Dionysius of Halicarnassus (2.31.2), some people identified the Latin water god Consus (Κῶνσος) with Poseidon Seisichthon, “Earthshaker.”

⁴⁸ Cf. e.g. Mylonopoulos, *Polifemo* 5 (2005) 240–254, esp. 240–241.

13 ἐν νόσῳ τῆι λοιμῳδίῃ).⁴⁹ The consequences of the νόσος mentioned on fol. 192^v 17–25 of the palimpsest leave no doubt that the word is used in the same specific sense (cf. LSJ s.v. A). Moreover, the parallel account in the *HA* has the unequivocal term *pestilentia*: *Gall.* 5.5 *nam et pestilentia tanta extiterat vel Romae vel in Achaicis urbibus*, and 5.6 *ex diversis partibus pestilentia orbem Romanum vastaret*.

The passage on the plague (lines 17–25) concludes the description of the situation in the Empire at the time of the new Scythian campaign. It is connected with the passage on the κίνησις (ending in line 17) by the particle τε. While it is unclear exactly how the wider section is structured as a whole (since its first part is missing), the plague as an extraordinary event with an enormous death toll would be a fitting climax. The brevity of the passage and the perfunctory introduction of the plague (ἢ τε νόσος) as well as the formulation ἐν τῷ(ι) πρὸ τοῦ(υ) (line 20) indicate that the plague is familiar to the readers and this is not its first appearance in the narrative (i.e. outside of the proemium).⁵⁰ Fol. 192^r 17–25 now seem to be depicting the peak of this disease.⁵¹

The *Scythica Vindobonensia* are obviously referring to the so-called Plague of Cyprian, which ravaged the Roman Empire in the third quarter of the third century. The information the author gives and its contextualization agree with our previous knowledge about this epidemic.⁵² The most detailed evidence is

⁴⁹ See on *Inter- and intratextual relationships* below, under “c”; also Gunther Martin (in preparation). Cf. Thuc. 1.23.3 καὶ ἡ οὐχ ἥκιστα βλάβασα καὶ μέρος τι φθειράσα ἢ λοιμώδης νόσος.

⁵⁰ One might hope to find confirmation of an earlier report (or reports) in the *Skythika* from mentions of the plague in the *HA* prior to *Gall.* 5.5. However, such is precluded by the ‘lacuna’ from ca. A.D. 244 to 253. Cf. O. Desbordes and St. Ratti, *Histoire Auguste* IV.2 (Paris 2000) XIX–XXVIII.

⁵¹ See on *Date* below.

⁵² The ‘Plague of Cyprian’ has received new attention in recent years, see K. Harper, “Pandemics and Passages to Late Antiquity: Rethinking the

provided by Zosimus. He first mentions the plague in the reign of Gallus (and Volusianus) (251–253), interestingly in connection with a Scythian invasion (Zos. 1.26.1–2), then in connection with Valerian’s confrontation with Shapur (1.36.1) and again soon after the capture of Valerian in 260 (1.37.3).⁵³ According to him, a plague “fell upon the cities, such as had never occurred before in all of history” (1.37.3 λοιμὸς ἐπιβρίσας ταῖς πόλεσιν, οἶος οὐπὼ πρότερον ἐν παντὶ τῷ χρόνῳ συνέβη).⁵⁴ It is debated whether and to what extent this account is based on Dexippus.⁵⁵ Christopher Jones and Sabine Huebner in their recent contributions agree that the ‘Cyprianic plague’ arrived in the Roman Empire in the early 250’s—it may have broken out soon after Decius’ death (251)—and petered out in the late 260’s (see on *Date* below).⁵⁶

The adjective πολλή in connection with a plague could be interpreted either as “severe” or as “widespread.” Both find a counterpart in *HA Gall.* (5.5 *tanta*, 5.6 *ex diversis partibus*). The

Plague of c. 249–70 Described by Cyprian,” *JRA* 28 (2015) 223–260; K. Harper, *The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire* (Princeton 2017) 136–144; C. P. Jones, “Dexippus and the Third-Century Plague,” in *Empire in Crisis* 159–164; S. R. Huebner, “The ‘Plague of Cyprian’: A Revised View of the Origin and Spread of a 3rd-c. CE Pandemic,” *JRA* 34 (2021) 151–174.

⁵³ See Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 161–162. Cf. the commentary in F. Paschoud, *Zosime: Histoire Nouvelle* I² (Paris 2000) 156–158.

⁵⁴ Transl. Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 162.

⁵⁵ See e.g. F. Paschoud, “L’Histoire Auguste et Dexippe,” in G. Bonamente et al. (eds.), *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Parisinum* (Macerata 1991) 217–269; Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 163.

⁵⁶ See Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 159–164, and Huebner, *JRA* 34 (2021) 156–163, against Harper, *JRA* 28 (2015) 227, who dates the earliest attestation in Egypt to 249. According to a report by the sixth-century Evagrius, the third-century historian Philostratus stated that it lasted 15 years (*HE* 4.29, p.179.9–12 Bidez/Parmentier = Philostratus *KFHist* A3 fr.2), which is probably an approximation, see Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 160. For further discussion see on *Date* below.

second adjective, ἀδιήγητος, could in this context be paraphrased as “which cannot be described because of the extreme degree of suffering.”⁵⁷ For a combination of the two adjectives, cf. Eunap. *FHG* fr.4 (fr.5.1 Blockley, ap. *Suda* κ 391, s.v. Καρῖνος, πολλῆς οὔσης καὶ ἀδιηγήτου τῆς φθορᾶς) and Eunap. *VS* 7.3.4 (πολλῶν καὶ ἀδιηγήτων ἐπικλυσθέντων κακῶν). See also on lines 18–19 below. For an independent contemporary view of the gravity of this plague, cf. e.g. Eus. *HE* 7.22.6.

ἦ(ι)ρετο: The first letter seems to be a small majuscule *eta* and there is a small stroke that could be a *spiritus lenis* (the accent is not visible); the second letter seems to be *rho* (rather than *nu*, the minuscule form of which is very similar to *rho* in this particular Greek minuscule script; see *fig.* 3–4). The next, faint traces could belong to τῶ or ετο with *epsilon* and *tau* in ligature (as in line 15 in ἰκέτευσαν), but these readings are by no means certain. If τῶ is correct, one could read ἦρτο, i.e. pluperfect med.(pass.) of αἶρω; if ετο is correct, one could read ἦ(ι)ρετο, i.e. impf. med.(pass.) of αἶρω in the meaning of “to be raised/increase” (cf. ἡ δύναμις ἦρετο Thuc. 1.118.2) with a predicative use of the adjectives πολλή and ἀδιήγητος (cf. Dion. Hal. *Ant. Rom.* 7.65.1 ὁ δῆμος ἦρθη μέγας, Plut. *Cat.Mai.* 23.3 ἡ πόλις ἦρθη μεγίστη).⁵⁸

18–19 ἔς τε τὴν Ῥώμην (καὶ) τὰ πλεῖστα τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἐγκατασκήψασα:

A free space of 1–2 letters precedes the first *epsilon*. At the beginning of line 19, the *mu* extends beyond the ruled frame.

⁵⁷ *Suda* α 482 (ed. Adler) ἀδιήγητον· τὸ μὴ δυνάμενον δι’ ὑπερβολὴν κακοῦ διηγηθῆναι. Cf. Xen. *Cyr.* 8.7.22; Plut. *Fab.Max.* 11.6.3; Philostorgius *KFHist* E7 fr.7.1 ἄρρητά τε καὶ ἀδιήγητα πάθη.

⁵⁸ From the fact that Thucydides uses ἦρξατο for the plague (2.47.3, 2.48.1, 2.54.5), it might be tempting to look for possible readings (or possible restorations) among the forms of ἄρχομαι. The most suited would be ἦρχετο, i.e. ἦρ(χ)ετο. However, neither the durative or iterative aspect of the imperfect with ἄρχομαι nor the semantics seems to fit. We are grateful to Nigel Wilson for sharing his considerations on this matter.

Hence, the scribe may have intended to indicate a new paragraph, on the plague, by using a letter of the usual size and shape as an initial, similar to fol. 195^v (fr. Ib) 3. If so, one would, however, have to assume that the scribe forgot to set the initial in line 18 (the first complete line of the paragraph), realized his mistake, and corrected it a line later. Otherwise, this detail may be one of the meaningless irregular palaeographical features that often occur in this manuscript.

The characters are legible without ambiguity. The first four letters can be read as either ἔς τε or ἔσ τε. If ἔς τε is to be read, the preposition ἐς belongs to ἐγκατασκήπτω (see below) and the participle refers to both Rome and Greece. In this case, a connector needs to be added after Ῥώμην to correspond with τε, i.e. either ἔς τε τὴν Ῥώμην (καὶ) τὰ πλεῖστα τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἐγκατασκήψασα or ἔς τε τὴν Ῥώμην τὰ (τε) πλεῖστα etc., “having struck both Rome and Greece” (the latter, a suggestion by Carlo M. Lucarini, is palaeographically easier, but no parallel for the use of τε ... τε to connect words has been found in Dexippus’ fragments yet). This is apparently what the *HA* read and it puts the clear focus on the adjectives πολλή and ἀδιήγητος.

If, by contrast, Dexippus meant ἔσ τε, a preposition of space, “up to,” then ἔσ τε τὴν Ῥώμην belongs to the previous text as an adverbial phrase meaning “as far as Rome.” Another preposition (ἐς) then needs to be added to ἐγκατασκήψασα (see below), as pointed out to us by Nigel Wilson: the omission could easily have been caused by homoeoarchon, i.e. ἢ τε νόσος πολλή τε | καὶ ἀδιήγητος ἐν τούτω(ι) ἢ(ι)ρητο ἔσ τε τὴν Ῥώμην, (ἐς) τὰ πλεῖστα τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἐγκατασκήψασα, “And at this time the disease *grew* severe and indescribable as far as Rome, having struck most of Greece.” This wording would suit the tenor of the entire passage, lines 13–25, in that it is focused on the situation in Rome. The *HA* (*Gall.* 5.5. *nam et pestilentia tanta extiterat vel Romae vel in Achaicis urbibus*), however, does not seem to have understood the passage in this way. Moreover, the main clause would convey two competing new pieces of information—the severity of the illness and its geographical spread (“up to Rome”)—without a

clear focus. Above all, ἔστε without following ἐπί is not securely attested in literary texts. Arr. *Ind.* 2.2 and 41.8 are the only examples (against more than 80 instances with ἐπί, all in Arrian) and have hence been doubted.⁵⁹

ἐγκατασκήπτω, “fall upon” of epidemics (cf. LSJ s.v. A intr.), is used by Thuc. 2.47.3 with πολλαχόσε (ἢ νόσος ... καὶ πρότερον πολλαχόσε ἐγκατασκήψαι, “that the plague had already struck widely elsewhere”), a passage which Dexippus seems to imitate here (see on *Inter- and intratextual relationships* below, under “a”). This verb is constructed with dative (never with accusative) or preposition, usually εἰς (+acc.); cf. Cass. Dio 49.15.5 ἐπειδὴ κερραυνὸς ἐς αὐτὸν ἐγκατέσκηψε and Ael. Arist. 19.258 (Keil/Behr) νέφος δὲ ... ἐγκατέσκηψεν εἰς τὰς τῶν βαρβάρων ναῦς.

20–22: an explanation is provided for why the plague is being considered as πολλή and ἀδιήγητος. The particle μὲν in line 20 is correlated with δέ in line 21.

20–21 βραχύταται μὲν γὰρ οὕτως καὶ ἐν τῶ(ι) πρὸ τοῦ | αἰ̇ διακωχαί (“For, while the intermissions had been very brief in this way also in the past”):

In the word διακωχαί the scribe wrote *alpha* above *iota* (which is now concealed by the upper text), connecting the last stroke of this *alpha* with the first vertical stroke of the following *kappa*, which is therefore higher than usual (see *fig.* 3–4). The ακ in the word Μακεδονίαν ten lines later (fol. 192^v 1) is written in a similar way.⁶⁰ The reading διακωχή is a variant of διοκωχή (“intermission/cessation”) attested in Thucydides’ description of the Athenian plague (3.87.1 τοῦ δ’ ἐπιγινομένου χειμῶνος ἢ νόσος τὸ

⁵⁹ Arr. *Ind.* 2.2 παρατείνει ἔστε τὴν πρὸς ἕω θάλασσαν and 41.8 ἔστε Βαβυλῶνα, both in an Ionizing text; in his edition, Hercher has proposed ἔστε (ἐπί) in both instances. Other attestations of ἔστε alone are in dialect inscriptions, e.g. *IK Priene* 132.113, 166, 169; *IG VII* 3170.13.

⁶⁰ See *fig.* 5 in J. Grusková, G. Martin, O. Kresten, and F. Mitthof, “Images of the Vienna Dexippus Palimpsest,” in *Empire in Crisis* 549–564 (Anhang II), at 555: line 1.

δεύτερον ἐπέπεσε τοῖς Ἀθηναίοις, ἐκλιπούσα μὲν οὐδένα χρόνον τὸ παντάπασιν, ἐγένετο δέ τις ὄμως διοκωχή). It is mentioned e.g. in Hsch. δ 1075 διοκωχή· ὁ μεταξὺ χρόνος, καὶ διάστημα χρόνου and in *Suda* δ 601 διοκωχή: διάλειψις. Cf. schol. Thuc. 3.87.1c (p.653.62 Kleinlogel/Alpers) (διοκωχή:) διάλειψις, ἀναβολή (with apparatus). According to the edition of Giovanni Battista Alberti, the manuscripts of Thucydides uniformly transmit the variant διοκωχή.⁶¹ An emulation of Thucydides 3.87.1 is evident, as διοκωχή (or διακωχή) is not found elsewhere before Cassius Dio⁶² (see on *Inter- and intratextual relationships* below, under “a”).

οὕτως:⁶³ The faint strokes at the beginning could correspond to *omicron* (although *alpha* cannot be completely excluded); the area is not sufficiently visible to decide.

The sentence produces an antithesis between the earlier waves and the current one: all the waves have in common that the periods of reprieve (διοκωχαί) have been very short, i.e. οὕτως καὶ in the sense of “in this way also,” but the current wave is distinguished by its vehemence (τότε δὲ ...).

For ἐν τῷ πρὸ τοῦ scil. χρόνῳ cf. Thuc. 1.32.4 (where only a part of the manuscripts have χρόνῳ).⁶⁴

21–22 τότε δὲ ἐπὶ πολὺ (πολλῇ Cod.) τῆ(ι) αἰσθήσει ἵσχυρσεν (“at that time it became greatly overbearing because of how it mani-

⁶¹ For διοκωχή cf. Ael. Dion. π 22 (ed. Erbse): παροκωχή· παροχή παρὰ Θεουκιδίδη, ὡς ἡ ἀνοκωχή καὶ διοκωχή; the *Lexicon* of Photius π 432 (ed. Theodoridis): παροκωχή· παροχή παρὰ Θεουκιδίδη, ὡς ἡ ἀνοκωχή καὶ διοκωχή, and *Suda* δ 1157 διοκωχή: ἀνακωχή χρόνου. ἐν μάχαις τισὶν αὐτοὺς νικήσας καὶ διοκωχὴν αἰτήσασιν ἔδωκεν.

⁶² Cass. Dio 39.47.2, 41.25.1, 47.27.2, 75.9.6, who uses the word in a different context and meaning (“armistice”).

⁶³ In Greek prose οὕτως καὶ is well attested, whereas αὐτως/αὐτως καὶ without preceding ὡς δ’ is not.

⁶⁴ Without χρόνῳ: Alberti 1972, Luschnat 1954; with χρόνῳ: Stuart Jones/Powell 1900. The latter is more usual, e.g. Thuc. 1.103.2, 2.73.3; Lys. 12.2; Pl. *Symp.* 172D.

fested itself”):

The subject changes: from the plural διακοχαί to a singular, apparently ἡ νόσος from line 17. The connection ἐπὶ πολλῆ(ι) τῆ(ι) αἰσθήσει seems obscure in connection with the verb ισχύω, and no suitable parallel is forthcoming.⁶⁵ The solution may lie in emending the spelling of the manuscript: ἐπὶ πολλῆ(ι) could have resulted from a simple hearing error from ἐπὶ πολύ, which is often used by Thucydides and well attested in other authors (cf. LSJ s.v. πολύς IV.4). The dative τῆ(ι) αἰσθήσει can then be explained as one of cause. For αἴσθησις as “perception given” (LSJ I fin.) cf. e.g. Thuc. 2.50.2, 2.61.2.

22–25 ἐλέχθη γέ τοι ἐφ’ ἡμέρα(ι) ἐκάστη(ι) τῶν | θνη(ι)σκόντων
 πεντακισχίλιους ἢ καὶ πρόσω | τοὺς ὑπογραφέας ἐν τῆ(ι) Ῥώμη(ι)
 ἀπογράψαι τε!***** (“At least it was reported that the
hypographais in Rome registered 5000 or even more dead (*who*
succumbed to this disease) every day”):

22 ἐλέχθη γέ τοι: This is one of the rare occasions when Dexippus, at least implicitly, talks about his sources of information (cf. *Scyth. Vind.* fol. 195^r [fr. Ia] 17 ὡς ἐλέχθη). The source itself, however, remains unidentified.

The strokes after ἐλέχθη and before ἐφ’ have been deciphered as γε τοι. The area above is not sufficiently visible to see if an accent was written there or not. The faint traces visible after τοι could belong to *iota*: τοι.⁶⁶ If so, it is the first occurrence of this particle in the *Scythica Vindobonensia* (i.e. in the hitherto deciphered text). In the ‘old’ fragments of Dexippus, the only instance of τοι is S1b Martin = fr.3 Mecella = *FGrHist* F 34, a passage transmitted in the *Suda* without clear attribution.⁶⁷ γέ

⁶⁵ For ἐπί + αἰσθήσει cf. ἐπὶ στενοχωρίας αἰσθήσει Gal. *De loc. aff.* (VIII 284.6 Kühn).

⁶⁶ Considering the traces and the space before ἐφ’, the reading τότε can be excluded.

⁶⁷ *Suda* ε 2455 s.v. ἐπιμᾶλλον: [...] καὶ αὐθις· ταῦτά τοι ἐπιμᾶλλον ἐξῆψεν αὐτῷ τὸ μῖσος.

τοι would introduce an affirmation of the preceding assertion (cf. LSJ s.v. γε I.5).⁶⁸ The following acc.-and-inf. construction τοὺς ὑπογραφέας ... ἀπογράψαι would constitute the subject of ἐλέχθη.⁶⁹

22 ἐφ' ἡμέρα(ι) ἐκάστη(ι) (“every day”):

This expression depicts the situation as even more disastrous than does *HA Gall.* 5.5 *uno die*, as it indicates that the high rate of fatalities occurred not only on one single day, but every day.

22–23 τῶν | θνη(ι)σκόντων πεντακισχιλίους ἢ καὶ πρόσω (“5000 or even more dead”):

θνησ and ντων have been deciphered with relative certainty, and the faint strokes after the *sigma* could belong to a *kappa* and an *omicron*. The genitive θνη(ι)σκόντων could be explained as belonging to the following cardinal number, i.e. “5000 dead.”⁷⁰

After πεντακισχιλίους, the letters α and προσ are legible, the letters ἢ κ and ἰ are likely but uncertain. In the majority of images, the area after προσ is concealed to a great extent by the upper text or data from other layers. However, one of the processing methods rendered partly visible faint strokes that could belong to the undertext and be deciphered as an *omega*, with nothing more to follow in the line. Since at the beginning of line 24 the illegible space of 3–4 letters could correspond with τοὺς, which one would expect before ὑπογραφέας, this possible (though uncertain) *omega* at the end of line 23 most likely goes with προσ to form πρόσω. The illegible area above the

⁶⁸ For ἐλέχθη γέ τοι cf. e.g. Pl. *Hp.mi.* 367B7.

⁶⁹ Cf. e.g. Arist. *Eth.Nic.* 1139a or Plut. *Marc.* 4.2.4. In the rather unlikely case that the stroke after το does not belong to a character of the undertext, το has to be interpreted as the article. For a substantivised acc.-and-inf. construction after ἐλέχθη cf. e.g. *Ath.Pol.* 21.2 ἐλέχθη τὸ μὴ φυλοκρινεῖν πρὸς τοὺς ἐξετάζειν τὰ γένη βουλομένους.

⁷⁰ For the use of the genitive with numerals cf. e.g. Hdt. 9.28.3 μετὰ δὲ τούτους ἴσταντο Κορινθίων πεντακισχίλιοι (“Next to these in the line were five thousand Corinthians”, transl. A. D. Godley).

letters does not allow any statement on accentuation. To sum up: the text after πεντακισχιλίους could be (preliminarily) edited as ἢ καὶ πρόσω.⁷¹ For πρόσω after a numeral—here 5000—meaning “more” cf. Clem. Alex. *Strom.* 1.21.102 γενεαὶ μὲν ... διαριθμοῦνται, ἔτη δέ, ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν, τετρακόσια καὶ πρόσω; Eriph. *Adv. Haeres.* 78.8.2 (III 458.22–23 Holl) κατάγων ἡλικίαν περί που ὀγδοήκοντα ἐτῶν καὶ πρόσω ὁ ἀνὴρ. Elsewhere in the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, που μάλιστα (“about, approximately”) is used to indicate the approximative character of large figures: cf. on the size of armies in fols. 195^v (fr. Ib) 18–19, 194^r (fr. IIa) 27–28, 194^v (fr. IIb) 2–3. Here, by contrast, the author emphasises that the figure he gives is the minimum, thereby intensifying the impression of its enormity and making the disease appear particularly perilous. The text corresponds to *HA Gall.* 5.5 *ut ... quinque milia hominum pari morbo perirent.*

24–25 τοῖς ὑπογραφέας ἐν τῆ(ι) Ῥώμη(ι) ἀπογράψαι τελε*****
 (“that the *hypographeis* in Rome registered ...”):

On τοῖς see above. The first character of ὑπογραφέας is very likely a broad *upsilon* which often appears before *pi*, e.g. in ὑπερ in line 29.

ἐν τῆ(ι) Ῥώμη(ι) (“in Rome”): the new text refers to Rome as the place where the deceased were registered by the ὑπογραφεῖς. It does not tell us whether Rome was the place where these 5000 daily deaths occurred. The report of *HA Gall.* 5.5 *nam et pestilentia tanta extiterat vel Romae vel in Achaicis urbibus, ut uno die quinque milia hominum pari morbo perirent* seems to imply that the figure gives the total for the entire Empire or at least for Rome

⁷¹ The fragments of Dexippus otherwise only have the form πόρρω: cf. fr.22.4 Martin (= fr.28.4 Mecella, *FGrHist* F 25.4), fr.23.10 Martin (= fr.29.10 Mecella, *FGrHist* F 26.10), fr.30.2 Martin (= fr.36.2 Mecella, *FGrHist* F 7.2), also in the *Scythica Vindobonensia* in fol. 195^r (fr. Ia) 5 and fol. 195^v (fr. Ib) 5. The concurrence of both forms, i.e. πρόσω and πόρρω, in one work might seem peculiar, but it is not impossible (cf. e.g. Gal. *Anat. Adm.* II 714.18 and 715.4 Kühn; Arr. *Anab.* 3.28.8 and 3.28.9).

and Achaia combined.⁷²

ὀπογράφαι: the letter after Ῥώμη(ι) and before the legible πo cannot be read with certainty. Judging from the visible traces, it nevertheless seems very likely that the scribe first wrote a wide *upsilon* with a *spiritus asper* (ὕπο-; this *spiritus* is visible), and then corrected it⁷³ into an *alpha* with a *spiritus lenis* (ἄπο-; this *spiritus* is likewise visible) (see *fig.* 3–4). He may have been influenced by the previous ὑπογραφέας (if correct). The faint traces of several characters after πo could belong to γράψαι, giving the inf. aor. act. ἄπογράφαι. The meaning “register” (LSJ s.v. II.1) would suit the context well, with τῶν θνη(ι)σκόντων πεντακισχιλίουσ as a direct object.

Interpreting ὑπογραφέας is difficult firstly because the first character is not completely beyond doubt, secondly because it is uncertain which office and institution the text is referring to. In literary sources (e.g. Ar. *Eq.* 1256) and in documentary papyri (e.g. *P.Oxy.* VI 911 of A.D. 233 or 265) ὑπογραφεύς denotes a person who signs for another. As an official title, the word appears in some inscriptions in Sicily (*IAkrai* 6–8). John Lydus (6th cent.) in *De magistratibus* glosses it as *scriba*.⁷⁴ As to the institution, the existence of a central register of deaths in Rome is a debated question. The closest we know of is the official register of burials in the temple of Libitina (Dion. Hal. *Ant.Rom.* 4.15.5, Suet. *Nero* 39.1) of which it is not clear whether it amounts to a complete systematic register of deaths.⁷⁵

⁷² On the severe decline of the Empire’s population during the ‘Cyprianic plague’ see Harper, *Fate* 140–141. Similar counts of the deceased are reported in connection with other plagues: 30,000 in the autumn of 65 (Suet. *Nero* 39.1), 10,000 daily in 77 (George Sync. p.417.12; Eus. = Hieron. *Chron. ab Abr.* 2099 [188h Helm]).

⁷³ For other corrections by the scribe himself see e.g. fol. 194^r (fr. IIa) 7, 9.

⁷⁴ Lydus *Mag.* 2.30 (128.24 Bandy): καὶ σκρίβαν μὲν ἐκείνω, ἀντὶ τοῦ ὑπογραφέα.

⁷⁵ Hieron. *Chron. ab Abr.* 2099 (188h Helm) in *efemeridem* probably refers to the same document. Cf. C. Virlouvet, “Existait-il des registres de décès à

τε!*****: The last letters in line 24 could be a *tau* and an *epsilon*. No other letters seem to have followed. The characters at the beginning of line 25 are invisible at present. From the context and the parallel evidence of *HA Gall.* 5.5 *pārī morbo perirent* one might expect a word or words with the meaning “died” or “succumbed to this illness.” The traces are too meagre and uncertain to allow more than conjectures. Considering the syntax and the evidence of the *HA*, one would expect an infinitive or a participle belonging to the accusative πεντακισχιλίους: One may think of e.g. τελευτήσαι, τεθνάσαι, or τεθνεῶτας αὐτῆι (scil. τῆι νόσῳ) or δι’ αὐτήν (scil. τὴν νόσον). Round brackets in the translation indicate our hypothetical supplement. Alternatively, Markus Stein suggests that τε after ἀπογράψαι could be a particle and indicate that καί with a similar expression of about nine characters followed (e.g. ἀριθμῆσαι).

(C) *Cod. Vind. hist. gr.* 73, fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) lines 25–30 + fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) lines 1–2

25–26 **δ* δὴ τρυγῆτου (τρυγητοῦ *Cod.*) ὥρα(ι) Ἄρκτουόρου συνθέοντος (“*And*, at the time of the vintage, with which the rising of Arcturus coincides”):

The ancient grammatical tradition distinguishes between the proparoxytonon ὁ τρύγητος (τρυγῆτου) meaning (LSJ s.v. I.A.1) “gathering of fruits, vintage, harvest” or (I A 2) “time thereof, harvest or vintage,” and the oxytonon ὁ τρυγητός (τρυγητοῦ)

Rome au I^{er} siècle ap. J.-C.?” in C. Virlouvet, *La Rome impériale. Démographie et logistique* (Rome 1997) 77–88; D. G. Kyle, *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome* (London 1998) 180 n.77; S. Schrupf, *Bestattung und Bestattungswesen im Römischen Reich: Ablauf, soziale Dimension und ökonomische Bedeutung der Totenfürsorge im lateinischen Westen* (Göttingen 2006) 235. Caution against interpreting these as references to systematic registration of the dead in the Roman Empire is advised by T. G. Parkin, *Demography and Roman Society* (Baltimore 1992) 37–38. We owe important remarks and references on this topic to Fritz Mitthof.

meaning τὸ τρυγώμενον, “fruit gathered” (LSJ II).⁷⁶ In the Vienna manuscript the eleventh-century scribe accented the genitive with a circumflex on the last syllable: τρυγητοῦ. The connection of the genitive with ἡ ὥρα, however, implies the first meaning. Since the transmitted accentuation in ancient works is generally considered to be a later addition, we have corrected the accent and written τρυγήτου in the edition, following the authority of Aelius Herodianus.

ὥρα(ι): considering the syntax of the sentence, it seems obvious that the transmitted form is to be understood as dative.

At the beginning of the sentence one can recognise only two *deltas* with certainty. The traces after the second *delta* could correspond to a majuscule *eta* (the area above it is illegible), but the poor visibility makes verification impossible. The function of δὴ would be connective, indicating a transition to a new segment. τῆι δὲ δὴ or ἐν δὲ δὴ⁷⁷ might seem plausible reconstructions, but owing to the very poor visibility, they cannot be verified.

25–26 Ἀρκτούρου συνθέοντος: the letters αρκτου at the end of line 25 have been deciphered with some degree of certainty. The beginning of line 26 is illegible: the faint traces could correspond to ρου, although ρω, i.e. dat. ρω(ι), cannot be completely excluded. Considering the following συνθέοντος, the genitive Ἀρκτούρου seems more likely: in Greek latitudes, the heliacal (or morning) rising of Arcturus is in mid-September⁷⁸

⁷⁶ See Ps.-Arcadius p.216.9–10 Roussou = p.93.14–15 Schmidt), which is an *Epitome* of the Καθολικὴ προσῳδία of the grammarian Aelius Herodianus: τρύγητος (ὁ καιρὸς μονογενῶς, τρυγητός δὲ τὸ τρυγώμενον).

⁷⁷ Cf. Paus. 8.28.2, Longus 3.1.2, and Sozom. *HE* 6.6.1 ἐν ὥρᾳ χειμῶνος.

⁷⁸ In Greece Arcturus would begin to be visible as a morning star about the middle of September. For Thrace in Dexippus' time it could have been about 21/22 September. See F. K. Ginzel, *Handbuch der mathematischen und technischen Chronologie: das Zeitrechnungswesen der Völker II* (Leipzig 1911) 521.

approximately and coincides with the vintage.⁷⁹

συνθέοντος; the last four letters as well as the *theta* and the *epsilon* have been deciphered with some degree of certainty. The faint remnants of the other characters seem to correspond to συν and ο. The use of συνθέω is similar to Pl. *Leg.* 844E1–2 πρὶν ἐλθεῖν τὴν ὥραν τὴν τοῦ τρυγᾶν Ἀρκτούρω σὺνδρομον.

The precise indication of time matches Dexippus' obsession with exact chronology in the *Chronika*, as criticised by Eunapius: at *FHG* fr.1 (fr.1.6 Blockley) he gives the (possibly fictitious) example τὴν ἐν Σαλαμίνι ναυμαχίαν ἐνίκων οἱ Ἕλληνες κυνὸς ἐπιτέλλοντος. This is the first time that we see a formulation of this type in Dexippus' own text. However, such an indication of time is not unique in a historical text: cf. Thuc. 2.78.2 περὶ ἀρκτούρου ἐπιτολάς. Considering the redundancy in the double indication of time (Arcturus and vintage), the parallel may, as Carlo M. Lucarini suggests, also be emulation of Thucydides in typically Dexippean style.

26–27 Σκυθῶν οἱ δὴ Γοῦθοι κεικλημένοι (“those of the Scythians who are called Goths”):

The ethnics Σκυθῶν and Γοῦθοι are legible without ambiguity (see *fig.* 3). The spelling of the Greek name of the Goths with -οῦ- is not without parallel, and so is the single -θ-⁸⁰ (cf. also lat. *Gothi*), although the latter is less frequent than -τθ- or -θθ-.⁸¹

The wording in fol. 192^r (fr. IIIa) 26–27 clearly shows that the *Scythica Vindobonensia* consider the Γοῦθοι (Goths) as a sub-

⁷⁹ Cf. O. Wenskus, *Astronomische Zeitangaben von Homer bis Theophrast* (Stuttgart 1990) 176; e.g. Hes. *Op.* 609–611, Theophr. *Hist.Pl.* 5.1.2.4.

⁸⁰ See M. Schönfeld, *Wörterbuch der altgermanischen Personen- und Völkernamen nach der Überlieferung des klassischen Altertums* (Heidelberg 1911) 120–123; M. H. Jellinek, *Geschichte der gotischen Sprache* (Berlin 1926) 3; W. Braune and F. Heidermanns, *Gotische Grammatik*²⁰ (Tübingen 2004) 3. Cf. e.g. Strab. 7.1.3 Γούτωνας; *Chron.Pasch.* 46.12 Γόθους, 472.12 Γόθων, 508.6 Γόθοι (ed. Dindorf, *sic Vat. gr.* 1941); Hsch. σ 737 (ed. Latte/Hansen) Γουθικών.

⁸¹ E.g. *I.SyriaAAES* IIIA 223.1 (Inat, A.D. 208) μνημεῖον Γούθθα, and *SEG* XX 324.7 (Persepolis, ante 272) Γούθθων τε καὶ Γερμανῶν ἐθνῶν.

group of the Scythians.⁸² At the start of the narrative of the new invasion Dexippus specifies the identity of the invaders. Only half a page later, he calls them Σκύθαι: fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) 13–14 ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐξ τούτους Ἑλληνας ἐξηγγέληται ἡ ἔφοδος τῶν | Σκυθῶν. The same treatment of ethnics as in fr. III of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* can be found at the start of Syncellus' report on the invasion of 250/1 (459.5ff. = Dexippus fr.17 Martin = fr.23 Mecella = *FGrHist* 100 F 22): Σκύθαι περαιοθέντες οἱ λεγόμενοι Γότθοι τὸν Ἰστρον ποταμὸν ἐπὶ Δεκίου πλείστοι τὴν Ῥωμαίων ἐπικράτειαν κατενέμοντο.⁸³ Later in the same campaign Dexippus refers to the invaders only as “Scythians”: fol. 195^r (fr. Ia) 20 ἀνέπεισε τοὺς Σκύθας, fol. 194^r (fr. IIa) 17 ὁ τῶν Σκυθῶν ἄρχων, 19–20 οἱ Σκύθαι Κνίβαν μὲν ἐν λόγῳ(ι) τῷ(ι) ἀρίστῳ(ι) | ἐποιοῦντο, and 25–26 ἐξ τὸ | κοινὸν Σκυθῶν⁸⁴ (the source of Syncellus' report, potentially down to the phrasing, is probably the *Chronika*).⁸⁵ Hence, a pattern seems to emerge: at the start of a

⁸² Cf. e.g. Physiologus 7.2–4 (ed. Sbordone) ... ἐν τοῖς Σκυθοῖς μέρεσιν, ἦτοι κατὰ βορρᾶν, ἔνθα εἰσὶν οἱ Γότθοι καὶ Δάνεις, ((δι)ὸ καὶ Σκύθας καλοῦσιν οἱ παλαιοὶ πάντας τοὺς κατοικοῦντας τὸ κλίμα τὸ βόρειον). The same interpretation may be possible also for *HA Gall.* 6.2 (see below) or Philostorgius *KFHist* E7 fr.11.8.4 Ἄλλ' ἐπὶ τούτοις πᾶσι καὶ Τριγίβιλδος, ἀνὴρ Σκύθης μὲν γένος τῶν νῦν ἐπικαλουμένων Γότθων (πλείστα γὰρ καὶ διάφορα τούτων ἐστὶν τῶν Σκυθῶν γένη) (ed. Bleckmann/Stein). Cf. *Etyim.Magn.* 238 s.v. Γούτθος: Ὁ ἄρχων Σκυθῶν τῶν δὴ καλουμένων Γούτθων. Ἔοικε γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ ἡγεμόνος αὐτῶν κληθῆναι. We express our gratitude to the late Klaus Alpers for the following expertise: “Der Artikel Goutthos stammt aus Oros, und zwar aus *Peri Ethnikon*.”

⁸³ Cf. Martin, *Dexipp von Athen* 105: “die Goten genannten Skythen”; Mecella, *Dexippo di Atene* 287: “alcuni tra gli Sciti, chiamati Goti.”

⁸⁴ Cf. also recently S. Ghosh, *Writing the Barbarian Past: Studies in Early Medieval Historical Narrative* (Leiden 2016) 40: “The existing fragments of Dexippus speak almost always of Scythians (“Σκύθαι”); the one exception is a reference to Scythians who are spoken of as Goths attacking Histria in the reign of Decius (reigned 249–251) (Jacoby, ed. 1926: frag. 22 = Martin, ed. and trans. 2006: frag. 17: Σκύθαι [...] οἱ λεγόμενοι Γότθοι). This might indicate that Dexippus distinguishes Goths as a sub-group of Scythians.”

⁸⁵ There may even be a third example: *HA Gall.* 6.2 *Scythae autem, hoc est*

campaign Dexippus specifies the narrow ethnic affiliation of the invaders, while also classing them as belonging to the wider group he calls Scythians. Later in the narrative he simply calls them Scythians. As Dexippus introduces the same sub-group twice according to this pattern, he may have spoken about another sub-group of the Scythians in between.

The new evidence of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* also raises a wider point about the conception of Dexippus' *Skythika*. We now see that he has knowledge of and uses the name Goths. In his account the ethnic name Σκύθαι serves him as an umbrella term for a larger group of tribes.⁸⁶ It follows that Dexippus is consciously describing the activities of heterogeneous groups of peoples, not a war between the Roman Empire and one ethnic group. It also proves his knowledge about the composition of the population north of the Roman frontier.

27–29 ἡγουμένου Γουθουρικού σφῶν, ὃς ἤρχε τῆς πάσης στρατιᾶς ἄρτι ἐκ τῆς φυγῆς ἢ κατακληθείς (“led by Gouthourikos, who commanded the entire army, having just been recalled from his exile”):

Each character of the proper name Γουθουρικού can be identified without doubt (see *fig.* 3); the *gamma* is written in a majuscule form (as often on this page, see e.g. Γούθοι in line 26). The ending -ου of this non-Greek name implies that the

pars Gothorum, Asiam vastabant, “i.e. that part which consists of Goths” or “namely their Gothic part.” It could, however, also mean “i.e. a part of the Goths,” in which case Bruno Bleckmann suggests to us that this may be a deliberate inversion on the part of the *HA*. Again, we are at the start of a campaign and the author of the *HA* (all but translating Dexippus’ text in the preceding lines) defines the relationship between Goths and Scythians. The words *hoc est pars Gothorum*, if read as “namely their Gothic part,” would correspond to the pattern described above. Cf. also S7.1–3 Martin (= fr.22.1–3 Mecella, *FGrHist* F 20–21.1–3) = *HA Max. et Balb.* 16.3: *sub his pugnatum est a Carpis contra Moesos. fuit et Scyt(h)ici belli principium*.

⁸⁶ For this hypothesis see most recently M. Hose, “Historiographie in der Krise: Herausforderungen und Lösungen der Geschichtsschreibung im dritten Jahrhundert n. Chr.,” in *Empire in Crisis* 35–49, at 45–46.

Greek nominative would probably be Γουθούρικος, analogous to other Gothic names ending in -ος, e.g. Θεοδώριχος, Ἀλάριχος. These parallels also suggest that the accent was probably on the third syllable from the end. The ending -ικος may be a variant of the common ending -ιχος of Gothic names, cf. the Latin parallels such as *Theodoric(h)us* or *Alaric(h)us*. The other Gothic names occurring in the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, Cniva (Κνίβαας, gen. Κνίβα) and Ostrogotha (Ὀστρόγουθθος or Ὀστρογούθθης)⁸⁷ show a different kind of termination.

The name Γουθούρικος is not attested elsewhere. The closest resemblance, in the extant sources, seems to be to Gunthericus,⁸⁸ who, according to Jordanes,⁸⁹ together with Argaithus was the *ductor* of the Gothic army in a campaign late in the reign of Philip (the so-called Arab), but the historicity of these events is controversial.⁹⁰ The presence of *nu* would change the etymology from Guth/Goth = “Goth” to Gunth = “battle,” but the difference need not be an obstacle to the identification: the letter *nu* may have been omitted by a scribal error in the course of transmission, especially since this is a proper name (cf. above on Γούθοι); the etymological difference would have been meaningless to a Greek scribe and the name Γούθοι could be still echoing in his mind from earlier in the sentence. Forms

⁸⁷ For the latest advances in the recovery of this name on fol. 194^r see the forthcoming critical edition of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*.

⁸⁸ Cf. H. Reichert, “Gunderich (§1 Namenkundliches),” in *Reallex. Germ. Alt.* 13 (1999) 194–195.

⁸⁹ Jord. *Get.* 91–92 (XVI; ed. Giunta/Grillone): *his ergo addens (scil. Ostrogotha) Gothos et Peucinos (ab insula Peucis ...), Argaithum et Gunthericum, nobilissimos suae gentis ductores praefecit. qui mox Danubium vadati et de secundo Moesiam populati, Marcianopolim eiusdem patriae urbem, famosam metropolim adgrediuntur, diuque obsessam, accepta pecunia ab his qui inerrant, reliquerunt.*

⁹⁰ The name Gunthericus, blended with Argaithus, has often been suspected to be behind the form Argunth in *HA Gord.* 31.1. However, in the *HA* Argunth is *Scytharum rex*, Argaithus and Gunthericus in Jordanes are *ductores* under a Gothic king.

with and without *nu* could be interchanged, as is clear from the occasional insertion of the letter in several papyri rendering Aurelian's title *Gothicus* as Γουνθικός (e.g. *P.Ups.frid* 6.18 [TM 15681, July/Aug. 273]; *P.Oxy.* XL 2902.18 [TM 45215, June 272]). Not least, forms starting with Gunth- are not attested before Gundomadus (Amm. Marc. 14.10.1 on the year 354). That means the name in the *Scythica Vindobonensia* may be correct, whereas Jordanes altered it to conform to the preferences of his day. For the moment, we retain the text as transmitted in the palimpsest.

The *Scythica Vindobonensia* informs us that Gouthourikos led (ἡγουμένου) the Goths in this invasion and commanded (ἡρχε) the entire army (τῆς πάσης στρατιᾶς). What the text does not provide—in contrast to the other two Gothic leaders mentioned—is an exact status for Gouthourikos; cf. ὁ ἄρχων used for Ostrogotha (fol. 194^r [fr. IIa] 17)⁹¹ and ὁ βασιλεύς for Cniva (fol. 195^{rv} [fr. Iab]). All the same, it can be safely assumed that Gouthourikos was an eminent member of the Gothic elite, temporarily elected and accepted as leader of the Gothic army for this specific campaign.

28 Of φνγ(ῆς) at the end of line 28, the traces of the first three letters are visible enough. No other letter seems to follow in this line and the next line (29) starts with a new word. In the images, the area above φνγ is quite noisy, but there are some faint traces that could be part of an abbreviation for -ης, similar to φυλακ(ῆς) at the end of line 4 of fol. 194^r (fr. IIa).

We do not learn from the text why Gouthourikos was in exile. Was a failure in battle or defeat in a power struggle the reason,⁹² or was there something else?⁹³ The use of the article

⁹¹ As Herwig Wolfram argues, Ostrogotha of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* is to be distinguished from the Amal king of the same name, *Get.* 91–92 (XVI): “Ostrogotha—ansischer Amaler oder glückloser Feigling,” in *Empire in Crisis* 17–34, at 30.

⁹² We now have the case of Ostrogotha (*Scyth. Vind.* fol. 194^r [fr. IIa] 17ff.),

της before φυγῆς could (but need not necessarily) imply that there has been a reference to this exile earlier in the narrative. If the new invasion was the reason why Gouthourikos had been recalled from his exile, it could explain why Dexippus is pointing to it.

The text of the *HA* in the corresponding passage, *Gall.* 5.6, is corrupt. The authoritative codex P (*Pal. lat.* 899) offers the following wording (fol. 156^r): *gothori ... a quo dictum est superius, Gothis inditum est.*⁹⁴ The word *gothori* is followed by a lacuna of approximately 17 letters, in which a later hand inserted nonsensical *dodius*. One might be tempted to ask whether the new evidence provides any clues for a reconstruction.⁹⁵

who seems concerned about the fact that he is being accused of failure in directing military operations, see Wolfram, in *Empire in Crisis* 17–34. It may be worth noting that “Argunth” is engaged in warfare against neighbouring tribes on the side of the Romans (possibly as an exile?), cf. *HA Gord.* 31.1 (n.90 above).

⁹³ On exile among Germanic tribes see e.g. H. Holzhauser, “Verban- nung,” in *Reallex.Germ.Alt.* 32 (2006) 139–142. The issue will be discussed thoroughly by Herwig Wolfram in *GLO* 41–42 (in preparation). He argues: “Kaum ist anzunehmen, dass Guntherich wegen einer unglücklichen Niederlage verbannt wurde. Die Uraias-Geschichte lehrt, dass Unglück so stark ist, dass es in der Familie vererbt werden kann. Einem solchen ‘Unglücksman’ wird nach der Verbannung kaum ein Heer anvertraut.”

⁹⁴ Cf. Hohl: *Gothoru(m pars) a quo dictum est superius, Gothis inditum est*; Desbordes/Ratti: *Gothi uel Getae, quod (nomen, ut) dictum est superius, Gothis inditum est*. The newly discovered manuscript E (Erlangen Univ.-Bibliothek 647), which appears to be the only witness independent of P (see J. Stover, “New Light on the *Historia Augusta*,” *JRS* 110 [2020] 167–198), has an even larger lacuna in this place and cannot be used to fill the gap.

⁹⁵ Franz Eyssenhardt (1864) suggested correcting the text (“indicante Salmasio”) to *Gothi sive Scythae quod nomen, ut dictum est superius, Gothis inditum est*. Considering the new evidence provided by the Vienna palimpsest, one could offer the following reconstruction (*pace legis* Youtie): *Gothori(co duce Scythae quod nomen,) de (de ed. pr.: a P) quo dictum est superius, Gothis inditum est*. Cf. also some lines later in the text, in 6.1 *pugnatum est in Ach(a)ia Mariano duce contra eosdem Gothos*. This conjecture, however, runs into a possible conflict

29–30 (+192^v 1–2) ναυσὶ πορευθέντες ὑπὲρ τοῦ Ἰστροῦ τὸν πόρον εἰσέβαλλον εἷς τε Θρά(ι)λκην καὶ Μακεδονίαν καὶ ἐλήϊζοντο τὴν αὐτόθι γῆν σύμπασαν (“[the Goths] took the way across the Istros in ships, invaded Thrace and Macedonia and ravaged all the land there”):

ναυσὶ πορευθέντες ὑπὲρ τοῦ Ἰστροῦ τὸν πόρον: in the translation we interpret τὸν πόρον as accusative of space to πορευθέντες, with the specification ὑπὲρ τοῦ Ἰστροῦ (LSJ s.v. πορεύω II.2. “c.acc.”; see also Montanari, *GE* s.v. 2.a). In an alternative interpretation, ὑπὲρ would take the accusative τὸν πόρον, which would then denote one specific (well-known) crossing point of the Istros;⁹⁶ the Goths would have entered the Istros from the Black Sea and sailed upstream beyond (ὑπὲρ) this crossing point—presumably to avoid the Roman garrisons stationed there—to land safely in Roman territory on their way to Thrace.

The author obviously considered it worthwhile to mention that the Goths used ships to reach Roman territory. Nevertheless, since the information is given without context, we cannot be sure about its function in the narrative. The information on ships may be retrospective, signalling an innovation in comparison with earlier invasions (e.g. if the Goths previously crossed the Istros while it was frozen). Alternatively, the author may have wanted to introduce a skill of the Goths that was to play a more significant role later in the narrative—that means he was looking ahead to a period when ships became relevant (e.g. seaborne invasions of Asia Minor: *HA Gall.* 12.6 *Scythae navibus factis Heracleam pervenerunt* etc.). For further con-

with the identification of Dexippus’ Gouthourikos with Jordanes’ Gunthericus: If the identification with Argunth in *HA Gord.* 31.1 (cf. n.90) is correct, the author of the *HA* would have used the person’s name once as “goth” and once as “gunth,” which seems improbable or would require a rather unusual combination of scribal mistakes. Bruno Bleckmann points out to us that the later scribe may have had in mind a text such as “Gothorido d(i)uce Scythae” with Gothorid being a variant of Gothorichus.

⁹⁶ We owe this interpretation to Bruno Bleckmann and Nigel Wilson.

siderations see on *Date* below.

εἰσέβαλλον εἷς τε Θρά(ι)λλικην καὶ Μακεδονίαν: the conjecture to supply Θράλλικην, which we proposed in 2014,⁹⁷ is shown to be correct. The parallel with *HA Gall.* 5.6 *occupatis T(h)raciis Macedoniae vastaverunt, Thessalonicam obsederunt* is corroborated.

The narrative moves at fast pace: the Gothic military actions, which must have taken weeks, are summed up in only 14 lines (fols. 192^r [fr. IIIa] 29 to 192^v [fr. IIIb] 12). Dexippus no more than mentions that the Goths invaded and plundered Thrace. As for the invasion into Macedonia, only six lines (fol. 192^v [fr. IIIb] 2–7) are taken up by the unsuccessful siege of Thessalonica, capital of the province.⁹⁸ This brevity contrasts noticeably with the ekphrasis in which the stratagem and the nocturnal attack on the Thracian city Philippopolis is described in fr. Iab (fol. 195^{rv}).⁹⁹

The author concludes the section with the announcement of the Goths' intention to advance on Athens and Achaia (fol. 192^v [fr. IIIb] 7–12).¹⁰⁰ The brevity of the section markedly differs from the lengthy and more analytical narrative of the defensive measures taken by the Greeks: the gathering of an army at Thermopylae,¹⁰¹ the election of the leaders, and Marianus' speech.

⁹⁷ Martin and Grusková, *WS* 127 (2014) 108.

⁹⁸ For an overview of unsuccessful sieges of Thessalonica at that time see the commentary on Eusebius *KFHist* A6 fr.1 (= *FGrHist* 101 F 1) in B. Bleckmann and J. Gross, *Historiker der Reichskrise des 3. Jahrhunderts* I (Paderborn 2016) 128–129.

⁹⁹ For more on this and possible explanations see G. Martin in *GLO* 41–42 (in preparation).

¹⁰⁰ See Appendix I. The province of Achaia is referred to as ἡ εἰσω Πυλῶν Ἑλλάς, see fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) 23–24.

¹⁰¹ Cf. fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) 13ff.: ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐξ τοῦς Ἑλληνας ἐξηγγέλθη ἡ ἔφοδος τῶν Ἰσχυθῶν etc. (“And when the approach of the Scythians was reported to the Greeks” etc.); see Appendix I.

Inter- and intratextual relationships

The new fragment bears an obvious relationship on a literary level to three other historiographical texts: two passages of Thucydides on the plague, *HA Gall.* 5–6, and the prooemium of Dexippus' *Scythika*. The relationship of our fragment to each of them is different, as (a) serves Dexippus as a model, (b) follows our text very closely, and (c) is a programmatic statement within the same work, so light is shed in different directions and on different aspects.

a) *Scyth. Vind. fr. IIIa (fol. 192^r) 13–25 and Thucydides*

The fragments of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* have so far provided many examples of imitation of Thucydides in vocabulary, phrasing, syntax, and style.¹⁰² What had been absent is the sustained evocation of a situation or episode from the Thucydidean *History*, a type of imitation often identified in Dexippus' 'old' fragments:¹⁰³ for example, Decius' letter to the defenders of Philippopolis recalls Pericles' last speech, in which he tries to convince the Athenians to stay inside the walls and not to engage with the Spartans who are ravaging Attica—just as Decius tries to deter the Thracians, who are eager to take on the barbarian attackers in an open battle, from doing so.¹⁰⁴ The new passage of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* now exhibits this trait of evoking specific episodes of Thucydides' work. When

¹⁰² Cf. Martin and Grusková, *WS* 127 (2014) 115–116, and *GRBS* 54 (2014) 741–742; Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 207–209; A. Papatomas, “Dexippos und Thukydidēs,” in *Empire in Crisis* 135–146; C. M. Lucarini, “Textkritisches und Sprachliches zu Dexipp und zum Prosarhythmus der griechischen Historiker der Kaiserzeit,” in *Empire in Crisis* 73–94.

¹⁰³ For one possible identification see H. Bannert, “Hoffen und Scheitern bei Thukydidēs und Dexippos,” in *Empire in Crisis* 53–62, at 59.

¹⁰⁴ The same fragment borrows from Brasidas' description of Scythians(!) (Thuc. 4.126.5). See F. J. Stein, *Dexippus et Herodianus rerum scriptores quatenus Thucydidem secuti sint* (Bonn 1957) 56–57; Martin, *Dexipp von Athen* 218–221.

Dexippus describes the plague, he seems to reuse material from two passages in which Thucydides reports similar scenarios. The underlined phrases mark verbal correspondences:

Thuc. 2.47.3–4 (ed. Alberti): ἡ νόσος πρῶτον ἤρξατο γενέσθαι τοῖς Ἀθηναίοις, λεγόμενον μὲν καὶ πρότερον πολλαχόσε ἐγκατασκήψαι καὶ περὶ Λημνον καὶ ἐν ἄλλοις χωρίοις, οὐ μέντοι τοσοῦτός γε λοιμὸς οὐδὲ φθορὰ οὕτως ἀνθρώπων οὐδαμοῦ ἐμνημονεύετο γενέσθαι. οὔτε γὰρ ἰατροὶ ἤρκουν τὸ πρῶτον θεραπεύοντες ἀγνοία, ἀλλ’ αὐτοὶ μάλιστα ἔθνησκον ὅσῳ καὶ μάλιστα προσῆσαν, οὔτε ἄλλη ἀνθρωπεῖα τέχνη οὐδεμία· ὅσα τε πρὸς ἱεροῖς ἰκέτευσαν ἢ μαντεῖοις καὶ τοῖς τοιοῦτοις ἐχρήσαντο, πάντα ἀνωφελῆ ἦν, τελευτῶντές τε αὐτῶν ἀπέστησαν ὑπὸ τοῦ κακοῦ νικώμενοι.

Thuc. 3.87.1–4: Τοῦ δ’ ἐπιγιγνομένου χειμῶνος ἡ νόσος τὸ δεύτερον ἐπέπεσε τοῖς Ἀθηναίοις, ἐκλιπούσα μὲν οὐδένα χρόνον τὸ παντάπασιν, ἐγένετο δέ τις ὅμως διοκωχή. παρέμεινε δὲ τὸ μὲν ὕστερον οὐκ ἔλασσον ἐνιαυτοῦ, τὸ δὲ πρότερον καὶ δύο ἔτη, ὥστε Ἀθηναῖους γε μὴ εἶναι ὅ τι μᾶλλον τούτου ἐπίεσε καὶ ἐκάκωσε τὴν δύναμιν· τετρακοσίων γὰρ ὀπλιτῶν καὶ τετρακισχιλίων οὐκ ἐλάσσους ἀπέθανον ἐκ τῶν τάξεων καὶ τριακοσίων ἱπέων, τοῦ δὲ ἄλλου ὄχλου ἀνεξέυρετος ἀριθμὸς, ἐγένοντο δὲ καὶ οἱ πολλοὶ σεισμοὶ τότε τῆς γῆς...

The highlighted vocabulary is partly so specific (ἐγκατασκήψαι, διοκωχή)¹⁰⁵ as to leave no doubt that Dexippus did not just use words and phrases that are generally applicable to the situation, but reused for his scenario material from Thucydides’ report: for instance, both compare the present to former waves of the plague; the juxtaposition of sanctuaries and oracle(s) is another obvious borrowing.

The passage in Thucydides’ Book 2 stands out as the kind of ‘purple passage’ that Dexippus uses elsewhere (like e.g. Pericles’ speeches), and he might presuppose familiarity with them in many of his readers. If we believe Lucian, the digression on the plague was imitated habitually by the emulating dilettanti of his

¹⁰⁵ Between Thucydides and Dexippus, the word διοκωχή/διακωχή is found only in Cassius Dio and there only in the military sense (“armistice”), as has been mentioned in the commentary on lines 20–21 (with n.62).

day (about the Antonine plague: *Hist. Conscr.* 15). After Dexippus, Procopius gives his version concerning the Justinianic plague (*Pers.* 2.22–33, including the form ἐπέσκηψε in the same sense as ἐγκατασκήψαι), and the Byzantine emperor and historian John Cantacuzenus reports a ‘Thucydidean’ plague for the fourteenth century.¹⁰⁶ Dexippus in the new passage (fol. 192^r [fr. IIIa] 17–25), which is likely to describe the climax of the disease, does not undertake to give a full description of the symptoms in the style of Thucydides, as his colleagues do. He may be indicating as much with the word “indescribable” (ἀδύγητος)—unless this is mere hyperbole and he did mention the symptoms in the lost part of his work.

However that may have been, the density and the unusualness of the material borrowed make it likely that Dexippus strove to produce an intertextual evocation of Thucydides’ account of the plague. One may wonder whether he aimed to achieve an effect beyond the display of learnedness and the insertion of himself into the tradition of Thucydidean emulation (as well as the insertion of his own time into the classical tradition of Athens). But it is clear that he is using the same technique of reminiscences as in other passages of the *Skythika*.¹⁰⁷

b) *Scyth. Vind. fr. III (fols. 192+193) and HA Gall. 5.2–6.1*

There has been agreement that fr. III of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* is connected with the report in *HA Gall. 5.2–6.1* (for the

¹⁰⁶ III 49–53 Bonn. Cf. also Theon *Progymn.* (II 68.7–8 Spengel). See H. Hunger, “Thukydidēs bei Johannes Kantakuzenos. Beobachtungen zur Mimesis,” *JÖB* 25 (1976) 181–193; T. S. Miller, “The Plague in John VI Cantacuzenus and Thucydides,” *GRBS* 17 (1976) 385–395; M. Meier, “Beobachtungen zu den sogenannten Pestschilderungen bei Thucydides II 47–54 und bei Prokop, *Bell. Pers.* II 22–23,” *Tyche* 14 (1999) 177–210; Av. Cameron, *Procopius and the Sixth Century* (London 1985) 40–43.

¹⁰⁷ This feature therefore further supports Dexippus’ authorship, if support is still required.

text see Appendix II).¹⁰⁸ Through the new lines, the connection becomes all the more obvious. Here Dexippus provides the model that a later historian follows. The similarities are so substantial as to rule out coincidence: the *HA* in part even produces a near-verbal translation of the Greek.

There are also differences: on the one hand, the *HA* omits several details, such as the sacrifices to Hera and Poseidon (fr. IIIa), the comparison between earlier stages of the plague and the present wave (fr. IIIa), the defensive measures at Thermopylae (fr. IIIb), the commanders Philostratus and Dexippus (fr. IIIc). That such pieces of information are missing may be explained by the free use of the source material on the part of the author of the *HA*. On the other hand, the *HA* mentions floodings of cities, crevices, and, most importantly, a summary of political events which is described as the raging of *fortuna*. At least part of these may have been dealt with in the first, still unrevealed part of fol. 192^r or on the (preceding) now lost pages.

At first glance, it may be tempting to assume that fr. III (fols. 192+193) of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, and so Dexippus' *Skythika*, is the direct source of *HA Gall.* 5.2–6.1. Since the *HA* typically appears to draw on one principal source for its account of any period, that would mean by extension that the *Skythika* would be the source for the *HA* account from 238, the year in which Herodian's history ended.¹⁰⁹ There is, however, cause for circumspection. The *HA* narrative of the third quar-

¹⁰⁸ On this connection see among others Grusková and Martin, in *Das dritte Jahrhundert* 267–281, esp. 269–270; Jones (n.14 above); Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 203–226; Piso, *GFA* 18 (2015) 205ff.; G. Zecchini, “Il nuovo Dexippo e l’*Historia Augusta*,” in B. Bleckmann et al. (eds.), *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Dusseldorpiense* (Bari 2017) 189–196, esp. 192–196.

¹⁰⁹ T. D. Barnes, *The Sources of the Historia Augusta* (Brussels 1978) 109–112; Paschoud, in *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Parisinum* 217–269; D. Rohrbacher, “The Sources of the *Historia Augusta* Reexamined,” *Histos* 7 (2013) 146–180, at 165–166.

ter of the third century does not by any means have the invasions of the Germanic tribes as its focus, even if they occupy an important place. The material the *HA* includes is the barest outline of events as one might find in a chronicle. The frequent mention of consular dates in this part of the *HA* points to the use of a chronographical work as source. By contrast, Dexippus' *Skythika*, being a monograph thematically focussed on wars against invading "Scythian" tribes (ending in Aurelian's reign, after 271),¹¹⁰ surely did not provide extensive coverage of internal Roman affairs, as the *HA* does.¹¹¹ Hence, if Dexippus provided the principal source for the *HA*, it was—as has been repeatedly assumed¹¹²—not his *Skythika*, but his *Chronika*, a chronographic work of broad thematic scope covering the period from mythic times down to the reign of Claudius II (268–270). One may therefore infer that in those places where the *HA* is particularly close to the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, Dexippus' *Skythika* was very similar to his *Chronika*.¹¹³

c) *Scyth. Vind. fr. IIIa (fol. 192^v) 13–25 and the prooemium of Dexippus' Skythika*

As has been pointed out above, our passage relates back to the prooemium of the *Skythika*. We provide the relevant passage together with our own translation (*Vat. gr.* 73, fol. 54^r [p. 107] 10–15):¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰ That the *Skythika* started in 238 is at least open to debate. Cf. G. Martin, "Die Struktur von Dexippus' *Skythika* und die *Historia Augusta*," in *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Dusseldorpiense* 97–114.

¹¹¹ Cf. Martin, *Dexipp von Athen* 161–163; Mecella, *Dexippo di Atene* 96–112.

¹¹² E.g. Barnes, *Sources* 109–112; Paschoud, in *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Parisinum* 217–269; B. Bleckmann, "Zu den Quellen der *Vita Gallieni duo*," in *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Maceratense* 75–105; Mecella, *Dexippo di Atene* 29–34; Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 216, 221; Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 162; Gengler, in *Empire in Crisis* 231.

¹¹³ For more see G. Martin in *GLO* 41–42 (in preparation).

¹¹⁴ This text was first published by A. Németh, in *Empire in Crisis* 125–128. For further observations see G. Martin (in preparation).

πρὸς δὲ ταῖς κατὰ πόλεμον συμφοραῖς καὶ παθήματα εἶρηται μοι, ὅσα συνηέχθη γενέσθαι ἐν παντὶ τῷ πολέμῳ τούτῳ, ὧν *****¹¹⁵ εὐρίσκω, ὅσα γε ἐν νόσῳ τῇ λοιμώδει καὶ σεισμοῖς καὶ θαλάττης μεταβολῇ (ἢ δὴ κατὰ τὰς ἀμπώτεις ἠπειρώθη ἐνιαχῆι καὶ αὐθις κατὰ ἀθρόαν κύματος ἐπιχώρησιν προσβαλοῦσα ἔξω τοῦ τεταγμένου γῆν ἐπέσχε).

In addition to the disasters caused by war, I have also spoken about sufferings, as far as they happened to occur during this entire war, sufferings of which I have found *****, i.e. those in the plague, in earthquakes and changes of the sea (which in some places became land because of ebb tides, and then again with a complete advancement of the waves hit and occupied the land beyond its normal limits).

At the start of his work, Dexippus announces in a programmatic statement that he will deal not only with the military history of the war against the “Scythians” and its concomitant disasters: he will also write about sufferings (παθήματα) in a plague, earthquakes, and floods.¹¹⁶ Whilst in the rest of the fragments from the *Scythika* these phenomena are nowhere touched on, the new passage of the Vienna palimpsest mentions two of the three παθήματα of the prooemium (cf. *HA Gall.* 5.2–4): the plague is dealt with explicitly, while an earthquake can be confidently inferred from the reference to “Poseidon, Mover of the Earth.”

Date

The new information invites a discussion of the impact it has on the dating of the events mentioned. On the basis of fr. IIIb–IIIc (fols. 192^v–193^r) of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, two dates are being considered in current scholarship: on the one hand the

¹¹⁵ The remnants of approximately six letters are too fragmentary to propose a decipherment.

¹¹⁶ This itself imitates Thucydides (1.23.3): see the commentary on lines 17–18.

Athenian years 253/4¹¹⁷ or 254/5,¹¹⁸ on the other hand the early 260s.¹¹⁹ The former position rests on the information given in Syncellus (466.1–7), which places an invasion by the Scythians into Thrace, their unsuccessful attack on Thessalonica, and the fortification of Thermopylae early in the reign of Valerian and Gallienus;¹²⁰ the latter is based on the consular date *Gallieno et Faustiano consulibus in HA Gall.* 5.2, i.e. 262. Both accounts agree in many substantial details with the *Scythica Vindobonensia* and therefore seem to refer to the same invasion, despite their contradictory dating. By offering some first thoughts we aim to encourage discussion of possible clues the new text may contain for the dating of the events described.¹²¹

1) As has been mentioned, the description of the plague

¹¹⁷ Orally this date had been proposed by Bruno Bleckmann in June 2014 before Christopher P. Jones independently argued for it (see n.14 above). For additional arguments in favour of 253/4 see e.g. C. M. Lucarini, “Zum neuen Dexipp,” *ZPE* 197 (2016) 42–45, at 45; Zecchini, in *Historiae Augustae Colloquium Dusseldorpiense* 189–190, D. Boteva, “Some Considerations Related to the *Scythica Vindobonensia*,” in *Empire in Crisis* 195–212.

¹¹⁸ O. Gengler, “Eine neue Datierung des Goteneinfalls gegen Griechenland unter Valerianus und Gallienus,” in *Empire in Crisis* 219–234, argues for 254/5, among other reasons, because in the following year Philostratus was archon and *epinikia* were organized in Athens.

¹¹⁹ E.g. Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 203, 215–222; Piso, *GFA* 18 (2015) 205–206, and “Das verhängnisvolle Jahr 262 und die *amissio Daciae*,” in L. Vagalinski et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the First International Roman and Late Antique Thrace Conference* (Sofia 2018) 427–440, at 427–428; W. Eck, “Marianus, *vice agens proconsulis Achaiae*, im Dexippus *Vindobonensis*,” *ZPE* 208 (2018) 248–250.

¹²⁰ Probably backed up by Zos. 1.29.2–3 and Zonar. 12.23 (III 139.26–140.1 Dindorf), which derive from the same source. See B. Bleckmann, *Die Reichskrise des III. Jahrhunderts in der spätantiken und byzantinischen Geschichtsschreibung: Untersuchungen zu den nachdionischen Quellen der Chronik des Johannes Zonaras* (Munich 1992) 180–189.

¹²¹ For a very good overview of the current discussion on the dating of these events (including further bibliography) see Gengler, in *Empire in Crisis* 219–234.

appears to indicate that Dexippus is describing a major onslaught or even the climax of the epidemic in Rome (and Greece) (see the commentary on lines 17–25). He refers to earlier waves and short intermissions between them. Two major difficulties arise in the attempt to use this piece of information for dating. First, the uncertainty regarding the first outbreak of the ‘Plague of Cyprian’: while Kyle Harper assumes that the first wave hit Egypt in 249,¹²² recent contributions by Sabine Huebner and Christopher Jones present arguments that point to the reign of Trebonianus Gallus and Volusianus (251–253) as the time of the first wave.¹²³ Second, while the number and length of the waves cannot be established,¹²⁴ the date in the early 260s would provide more time for previous ones. Furthermore, it would chime with existing evidence for a strong wave around 260.¹²⁵

2) Gouthourikos must have been an important figure among the Gothic leaders since he commanded the entire invading army (see the commentary on lines 27–29). The name, however, is new to us, and he cannot be confidently associated with any known character. Even if one supposes that the tentative identification with Jordanes’ Gunthericus, hinted at in the commentary, is correct, that does not help to exclude either of the above-mentioned dates: Gunthericus is said to have been one of the Gothic leaders in ca. 248, but the historicity of these events is controversial. If we accept Jordanes’ account and also identify Gunthericus with Gouthourikos, an absence of about

¹²² Harper, *JRA* 28 (2015) 227.

¹²³ Huebner, *JRA* 34 (2021) 156–158; Jones, in *Empire in Crisis* 161.

¹²⁴ If, as Dexippus indicates, there had been several διακωχαί before the one preceding the current wave, this must be at least the fourth wave. The intermissions themselves are characterised as “very brief.”

¹²⁵ Cf. e.g. Zos. 1.37.3: λοιμὸς ἐπιβρίσας ταῖς πόλεσιν, οἷος οὐπω πρότερον ἐν παντὶ τῷ χρόνῳ συνέβη; Aur. Vict. *Caes.* 33.5: *Simulque Romam pestilentia grassabatur, quae saepe curis gravioribus atque animi desperatione oritur.*

five years may appear more likely than a recall after more than ten years. Any reliable conclusion, however, is precluded by the multiple uncertainties.

3) The mention of the fact that the Goths used ships for crossing the Istros suggests that this detail was noteworthy (see the commentary on lines 29–30). Yet, as no further information is given in fr. III, the function of this remark remains open. It appears that only incrementally did the Goths acquire the skill to use ships for their attacks and that only in the 260s were they fully able to do so.¹²⁶ The brevity and vagueness of the reference and the possible ambiguity in the wording (see the commentary) give cause for caution when trying to use the new information to pin down a date: if the lines about the Istros mean that the Goths crossed the river from the northern to the southern bank, such an operation would not require the same level of seamanship as sailing the Black and the Ionian Seas (as the “Scythians” did in the 260s: cf. e.g. *HA Gall.* 12.6 *Scythae navibus factis Heracleam pervenerunt* etc.). If, however, Dexippus intended to state that the Goths entered the Istros from the Black Sea and sailed upstream, this could still have taken place in the 250s: for, even then did the Goths sail to Asia, albeit not on their own but with the help of seafaring tribes.¹²⁷ A conclusion about the Goths’ navigational skills—and consequently about the date of the narrative—cannot therefore be drawn from our passage.

4) Finally, neither for the earthquake (see the commentary on lines 13–14 and 14–17) nor for the following consultation of the *Sibylline Books* do other historians provide independent

¹²⁶ See e.g. Piso, *GFA* 18 (2015) 201–202.

¹²⁷ As Zosimus reports, the invading tribes of the Black Sea region were able to make use of ships already in 253/4 (1.28.1, 1.31.1–2), but at that time they relied on the help provided by others. For a detailed analysis see A. Schwarcz, “Gotische und herulische maritime Einfälle in das Imperium Romanum,” in *Empire in Crisis* 389–401, at 390.

evidence that would allow a decision between the two dates proposed: They are otherwise attested only in *HA Gall.* 5.4–6 which, as seen, derives from Dexippus.¹²⁸

Our discussion ends on an aporetic note. We have offered these preliminary thoughts to encourage further debate on the matter and look forward to new suggestions and assessments of clues for the dating of the historical events described in fr. III.

APPENDIX I

Fol. 192^v (fr. IIIb) 2–16 (the continuation of the section under *Edition*):¹²⁹

καὶ ἐπὶ τούτω(ι) τῆ(ι) Θεσσαλο^βνικ{*}*έων πόλει προσβαλόντες ἀθρόοι ἐπεὶ⁴ ῥαζον αὐτῆς τὴν ἄλωσιν· ὡς δὲ οἱ τε ἀπὸ⁵ τοῦ τείχους εὐρώστας ἡμύνοντο, πολυχειρία(ι) ⁶ τὰς τάξεις ἀμύνοντες, καὶ προυχώρει οὐδὲν ἐς ⁷ ἐλπίδας, λύουσι τὴν πολιορκίαν. καὶ γνώ⁸μη (ῆ) πλείστη ἡ{εσα}ν¹³⁰ ἐπὶ τε Ἀθήνας καὶ Ἀχαΐ⁹αν ὀρμηθῆναι τῶ(ι) στρατῶ(ι), δόξη(ι) τῶν ἐν τοῖς ¹⁰ Ἑλληνικοῖς ἱεροῖς χρυσῶν καὶ ἀργυρῶν ἀνα¹¹θημάτων καὶ ὅσα πομπεῖα· πλουσιώτατον ¹² γὰρ ταύτη(ι) τὸ χωρίον εἶναι ἐξεπυθάνοντο. ¹³

ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐς τοὺς Ἑλλήνας ἐξηγγέλθη ἡ ἔφοδος τῶν ¹⁴ Σκυθῶν, συνήεσαν ἐς Πύλας καὶ κατὰ ταῦ¹⁵ τόθι στενὰ τῶν παρόδων ἐξείργειν αὐτοὺς ὄρι¹⁶μητο....

And then they attacked the city of Thessalonica with their full force and tried to take it. But when those on the walls fought them off valiantly, warding off the attacking divisions by their own large number, and they [i.e. the Scythians] made no progress in their hopes, they lifted the siege. And the army was most inclined to ad-

¹²⁸ So far archaeological and epigraphic evidence does not seem to be datable with sufficient precision as to help dating these events.

¹²⁹ This work-in-progress edition is based on the preliminary transcription published by Martin and Grusková, *WS* 127 (2014) 106; reprinted in Martin and Grusková, in *Empire in Crisis* 547–548. We will present the final edition of this passage in the critical edition (*editio princeps*) of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*. For further suggestions on the text see e.g. Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 205–206; Jones (n.14 above); Piso, *GFA* 18 (2015) 200–201, 207; Lucarini, *ZPE* 197 (2016) 42–45.

¹³⁰ For this preliminary emendation of ηεσαυ (Cod.) see Martin and Grusková, *WS* 127 (2014) 109.

vance on Athens and Achaia, imagining the gold and silver dedications in the Greek sanctuaries and all the processional objects. For they were hearing reports that the region there was very wealthy.

When the Scythians' advance was reported to the Greeks, they gathered at Thermopylae and set themselves to block them using the narrow passes there....

APPENDIX II

HA Gall. 5.2–7, 6.1–2 (ed. Hohl with two adaptations):¹³¹

5 (2) *Gallieno et Faustiano*¹³² *cons. inter tot bellicas clades etiam terrae motus gravissimus fuit et tenebrae per multos (dies), (3) auditum praeterea tonitruum terra mugiente, non Iove tonante, quo motu ipsae multae fabricae devoratae sunt cum habitatoribus, multi terrore emortui; quod quidem malum tristius in Asiae urbibus fuit. (4) mota est et Roma, mota Libya. hiatus terrae plurimis in locis fuerunt, cum aqua salsa in fossis appareret. maria etiam multas urbes occuparunt. (5) pax igitur deum quaesita inspectis Sibyll(a)e libris factu(m)que Iovi Salutari, ut praeceptum fuerat, sacrificium. nam et pestilentia tanta extiterat vel Romae vel in Achaicis urbibus, ut uno die quinque milia hominum pari morbo perirent. (6) Saeuiente fortuna, cum hinc terrae motus, inde hiatus soli, ex diversis partibus pestilentia orbem Romanum vastaret, capto Valeriano, Gallis parte maxima opsessis, cum bellum Odenatus inferret, cum Aureolus perurgeret cum (A)emilianus Aegyptum occupasset, Gothoru(m) pars) a quo dictum est superius, Gothis inditum est, occupatis T(h)raciis Macedoniam vastaverunt, Thessalonicam obsederunt, neque usquam quies mediocriter sal[u]tem ostentata est. (7) quae omnia contemptu, ut saepius diximus, Gallieni fiebant, hominis luxuriosissimi et, si esset securus, ad omne dedecus paratissimi. **6** (1) Pugnatum est in Ach(a)ia Mariano¹³³ duce contra eosdem Gothos, unde victi per Ach(a)eos recesserunt. (2) Scythae autem, hoc est pars Gothorum, Asiam vastabant.*

Acknowledgments

Since the discovery of the *Scythica Vindobonensia* in *Cod. hist. gr.* 73 (fols. 192r–195v) of the Austrian National Library in Vienna,¹³⁴ the revelation,

¹³¹ We print everything in italics, whereas Hohl distinguishes between transmitted text and editorial departures from P.

¹³² Hohl prints *Faus[t]iano*. The correctness of the transmitted *Faustiano* has been demonstrated by Mallan and Davenport, *JRS* 105 (2015) 216.

¹³³ Hohl prints *Mar(c)iano*. Thanks to the evidence of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*, this conjecture can be definitively rejected.

¹³⁴ The fragments were discovered in 2007–2009 by Jana Grusková during a

decipherment, and edition of the new fragments have been the objective of two major research projects funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). To render accessible the otherwise invisible writing of the eleventh-century manuscript, we cooperated with imaging teams specialized in digital recovery of palimpsests. The Austrian National Library, represented by Andreas Fingernagel, Katharina Kaska (since 2015), Ernst Gamillscheg (until 2015), and Christa Hofmann, generously made the manuscript accessible. During all our experiments, highest priority was given to ensuring the continued safety of the written historical artefact.¹³⁵

(1) In the period from 2012 to 2015, in the project “Important textual witnesses in Vienna Greek palimpsests” (FWF P 24523-G19), which was led by Otto Kresten and hosted at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Department of Byzantine Research (Institute for Medieval Research),¹³⁶ multispectral imaging and image processing were performed in cooperation with Early Manuscripts Electronic Library and a team of image scientists and engineers assembled by Michael Phelps, director of EMEL, for this project.¹³⁷ Based on the multispectral images that were captured in 2013 and processed in 2013–2015,¹³⁸ we were able to decipher and preliminarily publish about 60% of the palimpsest.

(2) Since 2015, we have been able to further pursue the decipherment with a view to a complete critical edition (*editio princeps*) of the *Scythica*

research project of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Byzanzforschung), which focused on Greek palimpsests of the Austrian National Library. The project was led by Otto Kresten. By using technical means available at that time, primarily an ultraviolet lamp and old UV photographs, Grusková managed to decipher 15% of the text; see Grusková, *Untersuchungen* 50–53.

¹³⁵ For more details see J. Grusková, G. Martin, and O. Kresten, “Scythica Vindobonensia: Geschichte und Ausblick,” *AnzWien* 153 (2018 [2019]) 69–92, and J. Grusková, G. Martin, O. Kresten, F. Mitthof, K. Kaska, Ch. Hofmann, W. Kreuzer, M. Phelps, K. Boydston, R. L. Easton, Jr., K. T. Knox, D. Kelbe, D. Kasotakis, W. A. Christens-Barry, D. Stewart, I. Rabin, O. Hahn, L. Glaser, J. Garrovoet, I. Shevchuk, S. Klumpp, D. Deckers, and J. Buck, “Insights into the Digital Recovery of the *Scythica Vindobonensia*,” in M. Cronier et al. (eds.), *Le livre manuscrit grec: écritures, matériaux, histoire* (Paris 2020) 945–967.

¹³⁶ See Grusková et al., *AnzWien* 153 (2018) 75–78.

¹³⁷ For further details and acknowledgments see Grusková et al., in *Empire in Crisis* 549–550, and Grusková et al., in *Le livre manuscrit grec* 946–947, 950–953.

¹³⁸ See fig. 1–6 in Grusková et al., in *Empire in Crisis* 551–556.

Vindobonensia. In the period 2015 to 2020, our research was carried out in the project “Scythica Vindobonensia” (FWF P 28112-G25). It was conducted jointly at the Department of Ancient History, Papyrology and Epigraphy of the University of Vienna and the Department of Byzantine Research (IMAFÖ) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and led by Fritz Mitthof with Otto Kresten as national research partner. That project also aimed at a broader historiographical, historical, and archaeological contextualization of the new text.¹³⁹

In the course of this project, a new round of multispectral imaging was conducted in 2016 in cooperation with EMEL’s team: Michael Phelps, Ken Boydston, Roger L. Easton, Jr., Keith T. Knox, David Kelbe, Damianos Kasotakis, Dale Stewart.¹⁴⁰ In the same year, we performed first experiments with X-ray fluorescence (XRF) element mapping at the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung in Berlin in cooperation with Ira Rabin and Oliver Hahn (BAM/CSMC) to see if this method could achieve further recovery.¹⁴¹ Finally, in 2017 we experimentally applied fast-scanning XRF element mapping to the palimpsest at the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY in Hamburg (Proposal I-20170505 EC) with Jana Grusková as the project leader and Leif Glaser, an expert in material analysis of artefacts and archaeometry physics, as the principal investigator. DESY (Hamburg, Germany), a member of the Helmholtz Association HGF, generously provided the experimental facilities. The research was carried out at PETRA III at the P06 Beamline Hard X-Ray Micro-Probe.¹⁴² The loan of the valuable manuscript from the Library and the expenses of its trip to DESY were covered by a grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences (“Holzhausen-Legat”) awarded to Fritz Mitthof, on behalf of the project “Scythica Vindobonensia.” The two illegible pages, fols. 192^r and 193^v,

¹³⁹ See Grusková et al., *AnzWien* 153 (2018 [2019]) 78–81. For further details see the homepage <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/scythica-vindobonensia/> (last accessed 25 Nov. 2022). See also F. Mitthof et al., *Empire in Crisis*.

¹⁴⁰ See Grusková et al., in *Le livre manuscrit grec* 947–948, 953–964.

¹⁴¹ See Grusková et al., in *Le livre manuscrit grec* 956–960.

¹⁴² On the P06 Beamline in general see Ch. G. Schroer, P. Boye, J. M. Feldkamp, P. Patommel, D. Samberg, A. Schropp, A. Schwab, S. Stephan, G. Falkenberg, G. Wellenreuther, and N. Reimers, “Hard X-ray Nanoprobe at Beamline P06 at PETRA III,” *Nuclear Instruments & Methods in Physics Research A* 616 (2010) 93–97. For further details see Grusková et al., in *Le livre manuscrit grec* 956–962.

and other problematic areas were imaged at DESY in December 2017.

The state-of-the-art expertise in image science required for the processing of the large amount of data collected since 2013 (both MSI and XRF) was provided by Roger L. Easton, Jr., Keith T. Knox, and (until 2018) David Kelbe, the image scientists assembled by EMEL for our projects.¹⁴³ Work on the present fol. 192^r has been particularly painstaking and intensive, in particular since 2018. The recovery of the text often had to proceed in very small cropped sections, in constant exchange between Roger L. Easton, Jr., and Keith T. Knox on the one side and the authors of this article on the other.¹⁴⁴ The image scientists spared no effort to test a wide range of different processing approaches to offer the best results that this difficult palimpsest could yield. They were always willing to respond to our feedback and perform further processing of the image data.

The authors of this article would like to express their deepest gratitude to all participating scientists and institutions.¹⁴⁵

November, 2022

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¹⁴³ In 2013–2014, they were joined by William A. Christens-Barry.

¹⁴⁴ See Grusková et al., in *Le livre manuscrit grec 956–960*, and a paper on image processing, which is being prepared by the authors of this article and the scientists Roger L. Easton, Jr., Keith T. Knox, Leif Glaser, Katharina Kaska, David Kelbe, and Ivan Shevchuk.

¹⁴⁵ We would like to thank Fritz Mitthof, Otto Kresten, Herwig Wolfram, Bruno Bleckmann, Markus Stein, Herbert Bannert, and both the anonymous and the named—Nigel Wilson and Carlo M. Lucarini—referees of *GRBS* for their most valuable feedback on drafts of this article.

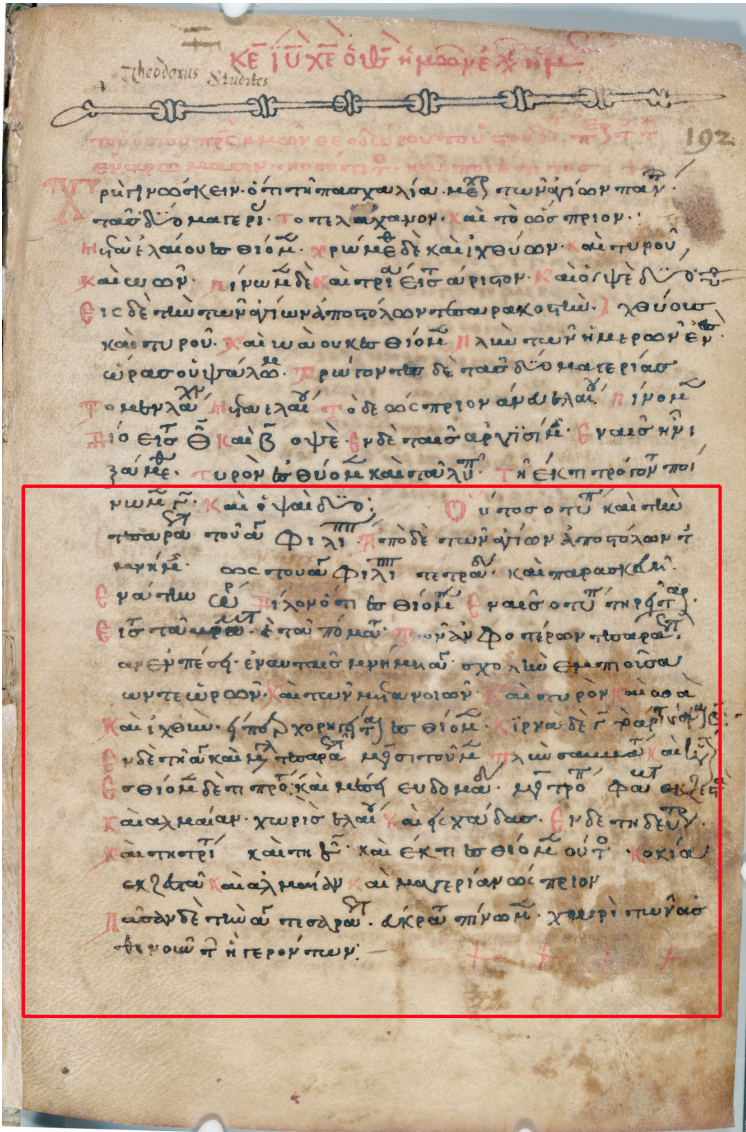


Figure 1: Vienna, ÖNB, Codex hist. gr. 73, fol. 192r.
 “Visual appearance image”
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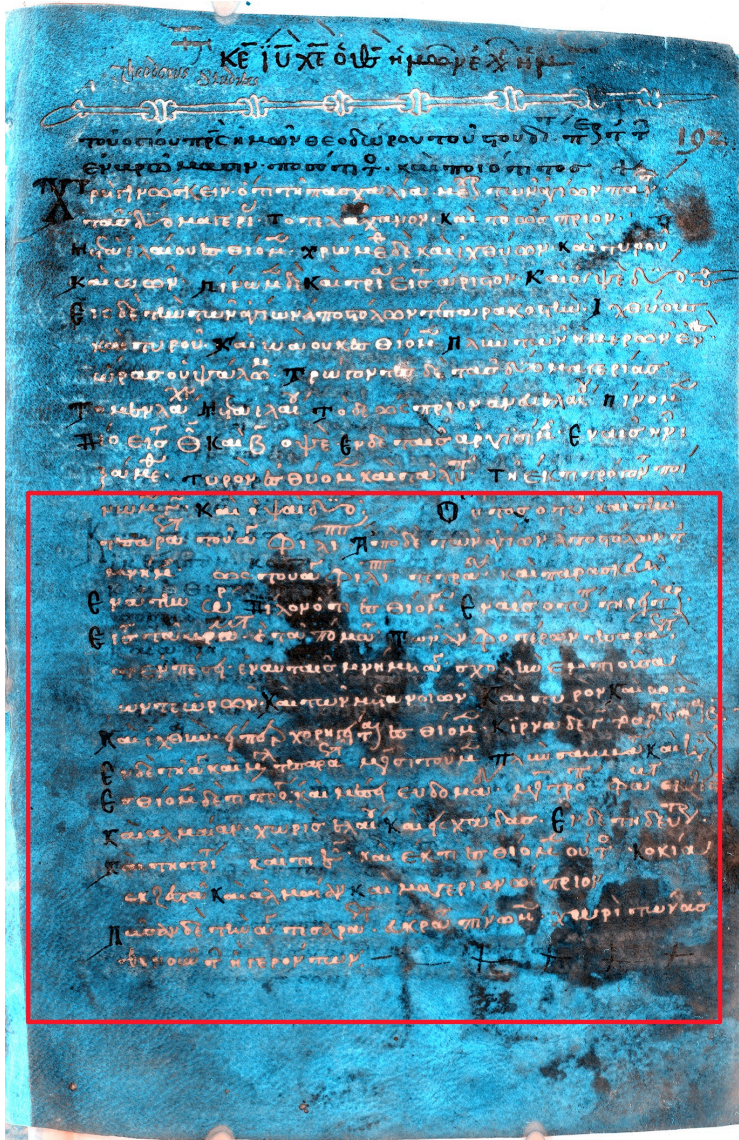


Figure 2: Vienna, ÖNB, *Codex hist. gr.* 73, fol. 192r.
Spectral imaging by the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library.
Processed image by Roger L. Easton, Jr.
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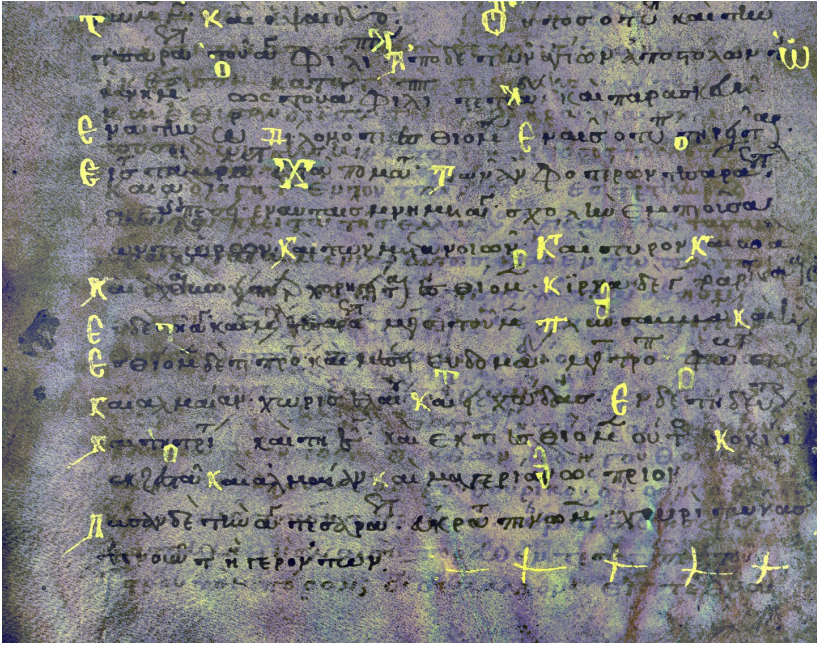


Figure 3: Vienna, ÖNB, *Codex hist. gr. 73*, fol. 192^r undertext:

Scythica Vindobonensia, fr. IIIa 13–30.

XRF element mapping at DESY by Leif Glaser

(Project I-20170505 EC).

Processed image by Keith T. Knox (EMEL).

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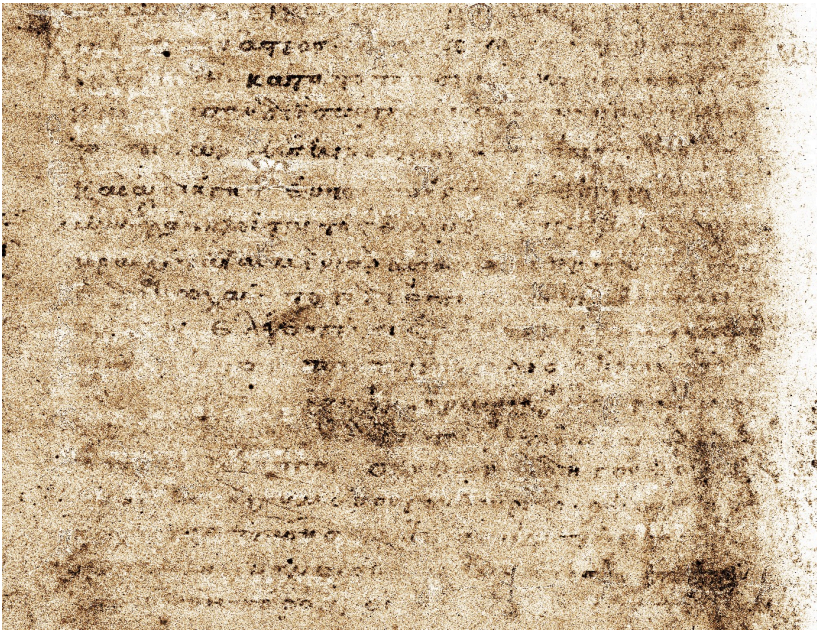


Figure 4: Vienna, ÖNB, *Codex hist. gr.* 73, fol. 192^r undertext:
Scythica Vindobonensia, fr. IIIa 13–30.

XRF element mapping at DESY by Leif Glaser
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