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NOTES ON HIPPONAX

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At fragment 17 Hipponax mentions various different types of food. For the convenience of the reader, I shall print Knox's¹ text and translation:

οὐκ ἄτταγάς τε καὶ λαγούς καταβρύκων,
οὐ τηγανίτας σησάμοισι φαρμάσσων,
οὐδ' ἄττανίτας κηρίοισιν ἐμβάπτων.

*"Not partridges and hares galore scrunching,
Nor flavouring with sesame pancakes,
Nor yet with honey drenching fried fritters".*

In a discussion of this fragment, Prof. Enzo Degani² noted that the verb φαρμάσσων means "flavouring" only in this passage. Consequently, he suggested that Hipponax is alluding here to *Odyssey* 9, 391 ff. where a smith is said to "temper" (φαρμάσσων) iron in water. Degani argued that Hipponax compares iron being "tempered" in water with pancakes being "tempered" in sesame oil.

I would like to point out, however, that the verb ὑποφαρμάσσω also means "to spice": cf. LSJ s.v., quoting Plutarch 2.614b where wine is said to be "spiced" or "flavoured". Accordingly, Hipponax states that pancakes are "flavoured" with sesame (σησάμοισι φαρμάσσων) just as wine is flavoured by the addition of spice.

At fragment 67 the poet asks for barley so that he can make a posset (κυκεῶνα):

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¹ Cf. A.D. Knox, *Herodes, Cercidas and the Greek Choliambic Poets*, Loeb edition, London, 1967, p. 21.

² Cf. E. Degani, "Hippon. fr. 40 Med.", in *Scritti in onore di Carlo Diano*, Bologna, 1975, p. 119.

κακοῖσι δώσω τὴν πολύστονον ψυχὴν,
 ἦν μὴ ἀποπέμψης ὡς τάχιστα μοι κριθέων
 μέδιμνον, ὡς ἂν ἀλφίτων ποιήσωμαι,
 κυκεῶνα πίνων, φάρμακον πονηροῖσι.

line 4 πονηρίας v.l.

*"To woe my weeping soul I'll surrender
 Unless at once you send me a bushel
 Of barley, wherewithal I may find me,
 By drinking groats, of all my ills respite".*

Previous critics have been puzzled by the meaning of line 4. Thus Degani³ placed the verb πίνων between *cruces*. I would like to suggest that perfect sense can be restored to the text if we understand that Hipponax has employed the present participle πίνων⁴ instead of the aorist. Hipponax wants to make a posset because he has drunk "poison of wickedness" (φάρμακον πονηρίας). Cf. Nicander, *Alexipharmaca* lines 128 ff. where a posset (κυκεῶν) is made as a remedy for poisoning.

At fragment 48 Hipponax mentions a scapegoat being beaten with squills:

βάλλοντες ἐν λειμῶνι καὶ ῥαπίζοντες
 κράδησι καὶ σκίλλησιν ὥστε φάρμακον.

*"Pelting him in the meadow and beating
 With twigs and squills like unto a scapegoat".*

In line 1 Knox printed the alteration λειμῶνι rather than the mss. reading χειμῶνι. Textual alteration is, however, not warranted. The scapegoat is stripped naked before being beaten with squills. Cf. Tzetzes (*Chil.* V 726) who states that the scapegoat was beaten seven times on the *membrum virile*. The scapegoat will therefore suffer the cold of winter when he is stripped naked and beaten. Similarly Theocritus describes how Pan will be punished and made to suffer the cold winter in Thrace: cf. *Idyll* 7, 111 ff. Hipponax complains of the cold again at fragment 56.

³ Cf. E. Degani, *Hipponax. Testimonia et Fragmenta*, Leipzig, 1983, p. 69 f.

⁴ Cf. *MPhL* vol X, p. 39. Prof. G. Giangrande has explained that at Parmeno 1,4 (Powell) φάρμακον πίνων means "having drunk poison": cf. *Scripta Minora Alexandrina*, II, Amsterdam, 1981, p. 391.

It is also possible that ἐν χειμῶνι means "in time of trouble". The scapegoat is imagined to be beaten with squills when there is a crisis. Elsewhere in Hipponax the words ἐν χειμῶνι mean "in winter": *cf. fr. 60*. For similar cases of *falsa anaphora*, *cf. my New Studies in Greek Poetry* (Amsterdam 1989), p. 20.