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Siparvm and Svpparvs

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SIPARVM AND SVPPARVS.

A STUDENT who looks out *siparum* in the dictionary is sent on to *supparum*. Forcellini: '*sīpārum* et *sīpārus* et *sīphārum*, v. *supparum*'; '*suppārum*, i, n. et *supparus*, i, m. . . . scribitur autem et *sifarus* et *siparum* et *siparus* et *sīpharum*'. Georges¹: '*sīpārum*, *sīphārum* (*sīphārus*), s. *supparum*'; '*suppārum* (*sīpārum* u. *sīphārum*), i, n., u. *suppārus* (*sīphārus*), i, m. (*σίφαρος*)'. Lewis and Short: '*sīpārum* or -us, i, v. *supparum*'; '*suppārum* (*sīpārium*, *sīpārum*, *sīphārum*), i, n. and *suppārus* (*sīphārus*), i, m.' This then is one word, rejoicing in no fewer than eleven forms (most of which I have never met anywhere outside a dictionary²): *supparum*, *supparus*, *sīparum*, *sīparum*, *sīpharum*, *sīpharum*, *siparus*, *sifarus*, *sīpharus*, *sīpharus*, *sīparium*. And to this one word the lexicographers assign two meanings: (1) a topsail (or in military use a sort of banner), (2) a linen garment mostly worn by women. Similar opinions are forthcoming from all quarters: Studniczka *Beitr. z. Gesch. d. altgr. Tracht* p. 90 '*supparus* . . . bezeichnet ein linnen Obergewand der Männer und Frauen, zugleich aber ein Art Segel und segeltüchtige Vorhänge, wie sie im Theater und anderwärts verwendet wurden'; Vaniček *Fremdwörter* p. 79 '*supparus* m., *supparum* n., ursprünglicher Name eines Segels . . . dann ein Frauengewand' (a description taken word for word from Hehn *Kulturpfl. u. Hausth.* p. 154 ed. 2); Pauli in Kuhn's *Zeitschrift* XVIII p. 5 '*supparus*, *supparum*, leinenes gewand, frauenhemde, toppsegel'; Weise *Griech. Wört. im Lat.* p. 181 'nächst der Tunika und Stola ist das am frühesten in der Litteratur auftretende Frauengewand das *supparum*. Sein Name (= *σίφαρον*) ist ein uraltes Lehnwort des Seewesens und bezeichnet ursprünglich ein linnen Segel'; Marquardt *Privatl.* pp. 484 sqq. ed. 2 'das linnene Frauenkleid, welches zuerst in Mode kam, war das *supparum*. Das Wort ist . . . identisch mit *siparum* oder *σίφαρος* (das Segel)'; Lindsay *Lat. Lang.* p. 29 '*supparum*, with byform *siparum*'; Walde *Lat. etym. Wörterb.* '*supparum*, Toppsegel, Bramsegel, auch *siparum*, *sipharum*, aus gr. *σίπαρος*, *σίφαρος* entlehnt'; Keller *Lat. Volksetym.* p. 106 'das Toppsegel heisst lateinisch *supparum* und *supparus*, griechisch *σίφαρος*, *σίπαρος*.'

Facts tell another tale. These are two words, distinct both in form and in significance, and one of them makes its appearance more than two centuries

¹ Georges' article on *supparum* is reproduced, false quantities and all, in Saalfeld's *thesaurus Italograecus*.

² Not even Greek is copious enough for our etymologers, who enrich it with the forms *σίπαρος* and *σίφαρον*: Schuchardt *Vokal. d. Vulgärlat.* II

p. 228, Ernout *Élem. dial. Lat.* p. 234, Keller *Lat. Volksetym.* pp. 106, 168, 175, Saalfeld *Italo-graeca* II p. 26, Weise *Griech. Wört. im. Lat.* pp. 69, 181, 293, 517, Walde *Lat. etym. Wörterb.* s. u. *supparum*.

earlier than the other. The word for a topsail is *sīpārum* or *sīphārum*: although its Greek name is σίφαρος in Arr. Epict. III 2 18 βυθιζομένου δὲ τοῦ πλοίου σύ μοι παρελθὼν ἐπαίρεις τοὺς σιφάρους and presumably also in Hesych. ἐπιδρομον . . . τὸ ἰστίον τὸ ἐν τῇ πρύμνῃ κρεμάμενον, ὃ καλοῦσι σίφαρον καὶ ἔλασσον (if this conjecture of Casaubon's for φᾶρον is true), its Latin name is neuter; for *sifarus* in *not. Tiron.* IV 4, tab. 109 88 ed. Schmitz., has no more right to count as Latin than *primna* or *bieris* on the same page. The word for the garment is *supparus*, masculine, which possesses, like *carbasus* and *sibilus*, a poetical neuter plural, *suppara*. For a neuter singular *supparum*¹ I can find no evidence but unsupported statements of the stupid and ignorant Nonius, the not very learned or intelligent Priscian, and certain scholiasts at Luc. II 364: Non. p. 540 '*supparum* est linteum femorale usque ad talos pendens, dictum quod subtus appareat', Prisc. G.L.K. II p. 169 '*supparus* περιώμιον et hoc *supparum*', schol. Luc. '*supparum* genus est indumenti', 'hoc *supparum* et haec *suppara*', '*supparum* est uestimentum puellare lineum' etc. (borrowed and corrupted from Paul. Fest. p. 311 *supparus*). Priscian and the scholiasts cite no example; Nonius is less discreet and cites four, one of which is visibly masculine, while the others, of which none is perceptibly neuter, include a verse cited by Festus as an example of *supparus*. It is however quite likely that in the decline of Latin, earlier than Nonius, a neuter singular was fabricated by false inference from the neuter plural, as *sibilum* was from *sibila* and *carbasum* from *carbasa*. The upstart has prospered amazingly: not only has it ousted both *supparus* and *siparum* from their place in the modern lexicons, but it has thence redounded upon the ancient, and in filling the gap at Fest. p. 340^a 20-2 it is thrice introduced by Mueller and Lindsay, once for *supparus* and twice for *siparum*.

The facts of which I speak are the following texts. Wherever the MSS have any variant worth mentioning, I mention it; but in every such case the balance of their authority is in favour of the form which I adopt.

siparum or *sipharum*.

Sen. *ep.* 77 1 'omnis in pilis Puteolorum turba constitit et ex ipso genere uelorum Alexandrinās quamuis in magna turba nauium intellegit . solis enim licet *siparum* intendere, quod in alto omnes habent naues' . . . 2 'ceterae uelo iubentur esse contentae: *siparum* Alexandrinarum insigne est' . *siparum* utro-bique VP b, *supparum* V ex corr.

Sen. *Med.* 327 sq. 'alto rubicunda tremunt | *sipara* uelo'. *sipara* E, *suppara* A.

Sen. *H.O.* 698 sq. 'rates quaerit in alto | quarum feriunt *sipara* nubes'. *sipara* E, *suppara* A.

Luc. V 427-9 'flexo nauita cornu | obliquat laeuo pede carbasa, summaque pandens | *sipara* uelorum perituras colligit auras'. *sipara* MZPC, Isid. *orig.*

¹ The lateness of this form is recognised, though not to the full, by Studniczka l.c.

XIX 3 4, *supara* U, *suppara* VG and all editors, '*sippera* uela sunt minora, unde et pantomimorum uela sic dicuntur, "siphario c. a. u." (Iuu. VIII 186)' schol. Bern.

Stat. *silu.* III 2 27 'uos summis adnectite *sipara* uelis'.

Auien. *Arat.* 760 sq. 'cum portum tenere, audi uolitantia raptim | *sipara* conuertunt'.

Isid. *orig.* XIX 3 2 'genera uelorum: acation, epidromos, dolo, artemo, *siparum*, mendicum.' . . . 4 '*siparum*¹ genus ueli unum pedem habens, quo iuuari nauigia solent in nauigatione quotiens uis uenti languescit. de quo Lucanus (V 429 above) "summaque tendens | *sipara* uelorum perituras colligit auras"; quod ex separatione existimant nominatum.'

Front. *ep. ad Anton.* I 2 p. 17 Nab. 'quod nunc uides prouenisse, et, quamquam non semper ex summis opibus ad eloquentiam uelificaris, tamen *sipharis* et remis tenuisse iter, atque, ut primum uela pandere necessitas impulit, omnis eloquentiae studiosos, ut lembos et celocas, facile praeteruehi'.

Tert. *apol.* 16 '*siphara* illa uexillorum et cantabrorum stolae crucum sunt'.

Tert. *ad nat.* I 12 'sic etiam in cantabris atque uexillis . . . *siphara* illa uestes crucum sunt'.

supparus.

Plaut. *Epid.* 232 '*supparum* (A and Non. p. 540, *subparum* P) aut subnimum, ricam, basilicum aut exoticum'.

Afran. *epistula* (Non. p. 540, Paul. Fest. p. 311, Ribb. *frag. com.* 122 sq.) 'tace: | puella non sum, *supparo* si induta sum?'

Nou. *paedio* (Non. p. 540, Ribb. *frag. com.* 70) '*supparum* purum belliensem (Veliensem coni. Lipsius) interim, escam meram.'

Varr. *Eumenidibus* (Non. pp. 540 and 549, Buech. *sat. Menipp.* 121) 'auro-rat ostrinum hic indutus *supparum*.'

Varr. *l. L.* V 131 'indutui alterum quod subtus, a quo subucula; alterum quod supra, a quo *supparus*.'

Paul. Fest. p. 311 4 '*supparus* uestimentum puellare lineum, quod et subucula, id est camisia, dicitur'.

Fest. p. 310^a 10-23 (I do not try to show the dimensions of the gaps) '*supparus* <puellare dicebatu>r uestimen<tum lineum quod et s>ubucula ap<pellabatur. Titinius i>n fullonia . . . omne quod . . . <sup>parum puni . . . cat Naeuius de <bello Puni>co. et in nautis . . . <u>estem consec . . . nunc *supparos* . . . na iam crucem . . . detur puella . . . <Afra>-nius ait "puella <non sum, supparo si in>duta sum?"'.

Tert. *ball.* 4 'stolam et *supparum*'.

C.G.L. V p. 623 27 'subucula uel *supparis* (read *supparus*) est camisia'.

Luc. II 363 sq. 'umerisque haerentia primis | *suppara* nudatos cingunt

¹ Mr Lindsay has *siparum* in his text but *supparum* in his index, or rather Otto's index, which he has taken over without adapting it

duly to his own recension or eliminating its misprints and other errors.

angusta lacertos'. schol. Bern. '*subpara* pro amiculis. *suppara* genus uestis quod alii stolam dicunt, alii thoracem uel amiculi genus'.

Arnob. *nat.* II 19 '*subuculas, suppara, laenas*'.

Apoll. Sid. *carm.* II 326 '*pendula gemmiferae mordebant suppara bullae*'.

C.G.L. IV p. 180 1 '*suppara . . . tunicae quae et subuculae dicuntur*'.

The confusion between *sipara* and *suppara*, which has ended in confounding *siparum* with *supparus*, perhaps began in the fifth century, the earliest date which can well be assigned to a poem exhibiting such prosody as *māluit, nēque, mentēque, Thersitēs, Deidamiam* —oo—, and such grammar as *comes esse placet*. The 'uerba Achillis in parthenone' (anth. Lat. Ries. 198, P.L.M. Baehr. IV pp. 322 sqq.) contain the verse, 23, '*arma tegant nostrum potius quam sipara corpus*'.

A. E. HOUSMAN.