

MYC. WE-RA-JO

With the new reading *]-ra-jo*, instead of *]-o-jo* on the fragment PY Eb 364 [+] 366 and its comparison with *we-ra-[* on PY Ep 613 [617], 14, J.-P. Olivier¹ discovered a new personal name *we-ra-jo*. Till now it does not appear anywhere as a whole, but there is no doubt that it is successfully reconstructed.

The suggestion proposed by Vl. Georgiev (II *suppl. au Lex.* s. v.) for the first two syllables of this name: *we-ra-[* Ep 613 [617], 14 cf. *ἥρα-* is not impossible. From this stem compound personal names are known, e. g. Περι-ἥρης, Πολυ-ἥρης, Διώρης < Διο-ἥρης (Bechtel, *HPN*, p. 194 f.), but simple names derived from the stem (*F*)*ἥρα-*² are not documented in the Greek onomasticon of the first millennium. Therefore we must look for other more convincing identifications.

From several possible readings and interpretations of *we-ra-jo*³ *W(h)e(i)laios*, derived from *εἴλη*, *εἴλη*, *ἔλη* 'the sun's heat or warmth', appears one of the most probable. The noun *εἴλη*, *ἔλη* obviously begins with *F*, as it can be seen from the gloss: *βέλα* (= *Ἥλα*)· *ἥλιος*, *καὶ αὐγὴ*, *ὑπὸ Ακάνων* Hesych. H. Frisk (*Gr. etym. Wb.* s. v.) tries to explain the glosses *γέλαν* (= *Ἥλαν?*)· *αὐγὴν* *ἥλιου* and *γελεῖν* *λάμπειν*, *ἀνθεῖν* with *γελάω*, but *γελοδυτία*· *ἥλιοδυσία* in any case is related with *Ἥλα*. The etymology of this noun is known. The form **Fhέλα* (**h**Fέλα*), hence *Fέλα*, *ἔλα* and with a prothetic vowel **έ-*Fhέλα** – *εἴλη*, *εἴλη*, is a verbal noun, I.—E. **s^uelā-* from a verbal root **s^uel-*, cf. Lit. *svilit* etc., see Pokorny, *Idg. etym. Wb.* 1045.

From this root the name 'Ελένη, originally 'a goddess of light', is derived. The divine name and woman's name 'Ελένη, as well as the man's name 'Ελενος, are formed with a progressive assimilation from *έλένα*, 'torch', cf. *έλένη* *λαμπάς δετή*, Hesych., and with a nasal element. We can also expect a man's name *Whe(i)laios* *Είλατος, *Είλατος*⁴ from **Fhέλα*, stem *Fhελ-* + the suffix *-αιος*, formed in the same way as *a-ka-ma-jo* 'Ακμαῖος from *ἀκμᾶ*, *Τίμαιος* from *τιμᾶ* etc.

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¹ I am very grateful to J.-P. Olivier for the permission (his letter of 12th May 1969) to quote this new reading of his.

² About the *F* in this word cf. P. Chantraine, *Gr. Hom.* I, 152; J. Pokorny, *Idg. etym. Wb.* p. 1165.

³ E. g. *Eiraios* from **εἴρα* < **Fεριθ* (*εἴρω* < **Fέριω* 'speak'), old Ion. = *ἀγορά* or *ἐκαληγία* 'a place of assembly' (cf. *ειράων* II, 18, 531), i. e. **Ειραῖος* = 'Αγοραῖος. But the basic form of this word is not clear (cf. H. Frisk, o. o. c. 466), and personal names derived from it do not appear. An ethnic *Ειροῖος* from *Ειρά* (*τὸ ὄρος*) *Ιρά*, a town in Messenia is also doubtful, because it is not certain whether this place-name began with *F* or not.

⁴ The month name *Είλατος* for the 12th month of the Delphic calendar (cf. Dittemberger, PWRE V₂ col. 2101), *Ιλαῖος* (Bischoff, PWRE IX col. 998), according to Pindar (*Nem.* 5, 38) is derived from *εἴλη*, *Ἥλη*, *ἴλη* 'agmen, grex', but regarding the fact that this month corresponds to May-June of the Julian calendar, when the sun's heat is especially increasing, it is not impossible that this month name might have some relation to the stem *Fhελᾶ* 'the sun's heat or warmth'.