

The Prologue to Euripides' Cresphontes

In his interesting recent reconstruction of the fragments of this play (*Aegyptus* XLV 1965 pp. 151 ff.) Dr. Olimpio Musso reads in Fr. 3,3 ξέν' ὀψ[έ, and writes (p. 152 footnote 2) « Mi stupisce che si sia potuto leggere ξεναι[dove è chiarissimo ξενοψ[». I know that it is easy to misread a papyrus text, and that I have done so on occasions. But I do not think this is one of them. No reasons were given in the original publication to justify ξεναι[, but so that *omne ignotum pro magnifico* shall not continue to be true, it seems they are desirable. A comparison on the plate of the writing of βιαιως or of ακουσιαις in col. ii9 with the writing of col. iii 3 will show that this is one of the ways this scribe writes αι. This is positive support for ξεναι[. Negatively ξενοψ[can be ruled out, since a scribe writing in this style would have made the cross stroke of *psi* as a straight horizontal, and would not have curved it. No example of this letter survives in P.Oxy. 2458, but the form to be expected can be seen in P.Oxy. V 1016 col. V, 215 and 216 (Plate V of the publication).

E.G.T.

