

# Arrian and the Gellii of Corinth

James H. Oliver

**N**EPOS, *Atticus* 1.4, speaks of famous *condiscipuli* of his subject: *Quo in numero fuerunt L. Torquatus, C. Marius filius, M. Cicero.* One way of differentiating a homonymous son from a more famous father in Latin was to add the word *filius*. Similarly the homonymous father of an even more famous son could be distinguished by adding the word *pater* as in the well known case of *Traianus pater* in Pliny's *Panegyric*.

There is nothing surprising in the discovery that this Roman or Latin custom is carried over into Greek in the Roman colony of Corinth, where the official language was originally Latin. One case occurs in the inscription published by William R. Biers and Daniel J. Geagan, "A New List of Victors in the Caesarea at Isthmia," *Hesperia* 39 (1970) 79–93, which is dated as follows:

- 2  $\overline{M}$ . Γαβίω [Σκουίλ]λα Γαλλικά A.D. 127  
 νῶ,  $\overline{T}$ . 'Ατ[ιλίω 'Ρ]ούφω Τιτια  
 νῶ ὑπά[τοις], ἐπὶ ἀγων<ο>θέτου
- 5  $\overline{A}$ . Γελλίο[υ Μενά]νδρου υἱοῦ  
 Αἰμ(ιλία) 'Ιούς[του, 'Ελ]ληνοδικῶν δ[ε]  
 $\overline{A}$ . Γελλίου ['Ιούστο]υ υ(ι)οῦ),  $\overline{M}$ . Φουλβίου  
 'Ιουλιανο[υ, Τιβ. Κ]λαυδίου Μαξί  
 μου,  $\overline{A}$ . Στα[τίου Π]ούλχρου,  $\overline{Γ}$ . 'Αβι  
 10 δίου Φλά[κκου,  $\overline{Γ}$ .] 'Ηίου 'Ικεσίου π(ατρός),  
 $\overline{A}$ . Μαικίου [Φανκτί]νου,  $\overline{Γ}$ . Κλωδίου  
 Σεκούν[δου,  $\overline{M}$ . 'Α]ντωνίου Τερ  
 τίου,  $\overline{Γ}$ . Πο[. . . .]ου Σκέπτου

I have omitted dots. The restorations are by Biers and Geagan except for line 10: Φλά[κκου Oliver, and  $\overline{Γ}$ .] 'Ηίου Geagan on corrected offprint.

As the editors point out, L. Gellius Justus *filius* in line 7 is the son of L. Gellius Justus *Menandri filius* in lines 5 and 6.

A second case occurs in *Corinth* VIII.3.124, in which G. W. Bowersock, *GRBS* 8 (1967) 279–80, recognized a new inscription in honor of Arrian. It should read somewhat as follows:

[ - - - - - ]  
 [φιλ]όσοφ[ον - - - - -]  
 [πρε]βευτήν [Αὐτοκράτορος]  
 Καί[κα]ρος Τραια[νοῦ Ἀδρ]ι[ανοῦ]  
 [Σ]εβα[ς] τοῦ ἀγ[γι]στ[ράτηγ]ον [τῆς]  
 5 ἐπαρχ[είας τῆς Καππαδ]οκ[ίας Α]  
 [Γ]έλλιος Μ[ένανδρος καὶ Α Γέλλιος]  
 [Ἰο]ῦστος υ(ἰός) τοῦ ἐαυτῶν προστάτην καὶ  
 [ ]VVV εὐεργ[έτην vacat]

Restorations τοῦ, καὶ in 7 and εὐεργ[έτην in 8 are by Bowersock, *BEpigr* 1968 (REG 81) no.253, ἐαυτῶν προστάτην by Oliver, the other restorations by the first editor, J. H. Kent. Moreover, Kent's drawing shows that two thirds of line 7 stood in the lacuna to the right, so that a restoration φίλον or even πάτρωνα would be too short.

The original Latin *filius* occurs at *Corinth* in *CIL* III 7269 of A.D. 139:

*Imp · Caesari · divi · Hadr*  
*iani f., divi Traiani Parthici nepoti, divi Ner*  
*vae pronepoti, T. Aelio Hadriano Antonino*  
*Aug. Pio pontif. max., trib. potest. II, cos II,*  
 5 *desig. III, p. p.*  
*L. Gellius Menander et L. Gellius*  
*Iustus f.*

It is apparent that there are not one but two L. Gellii Iusti, and that the L. Gellius Menander frequently associated with Iustus *filius* is not the latter's grandfather but his brother. The family tree of the Gellii seems to be as in Figure 1.

Arrian's account of the Discourses of Epictetus begins with a letter addressed as follows:

Ἀρριανὸς Λουκίῳ Γελλίῳ χαίρειν

Before the publication by Biers and Geagan in *Hesperia* 39 it was tempting (see *BEpigr* 1968 [REG 81] no.253) to identify the L. Gellius to whom Arrian dedicated his account with a L. Gellius Menander at

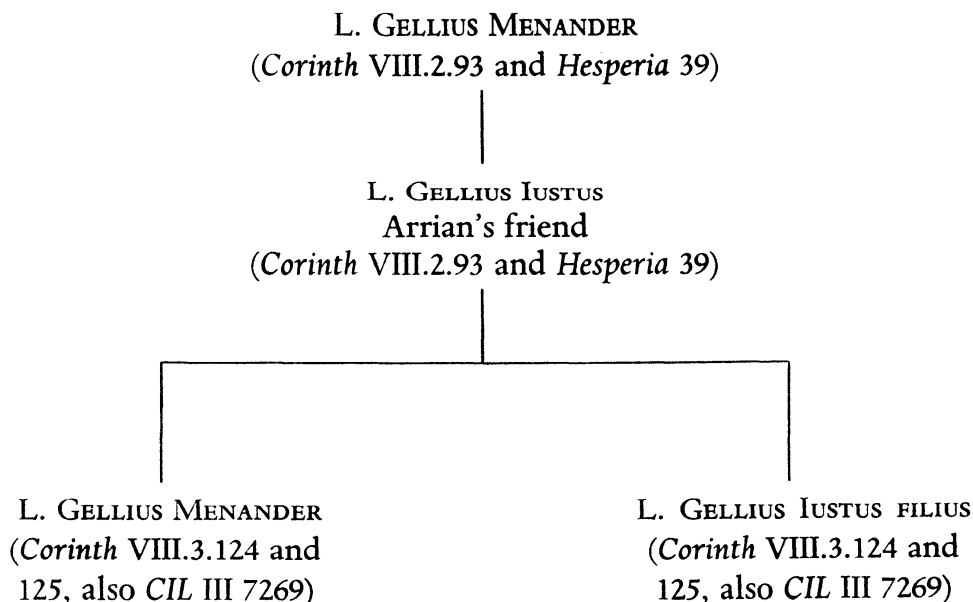


Figure 1. THE GELLII OF CORINTH

Corinth, but since the publication it becomes, at least for the present writer, much more likely that the friend was the elder L. Gellius Justus, whose fame overshadowed that of a homonym in the next generation.

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS  
September, 1970

## APPENDIX

### *Arrian as Archon at Athens*

The Athenian archonship of the historian Arrian is attested securely by IG II<sup>2</sup> 2055 and less securely by a new inscription which M. Mitsos, *Deltion* 25 (1970) 29f, no.1 (with photograph) meritoriously put together from scattered fragments in the Epigraphical Museum at Athens. The latter reads:

On raking cornice

[Αὐτοκ]ράτορος · [Τ · Αἰλίου · Ἀδριανοῦ]  
2 [Ἀντω]γείνου · Εὐσεβοῦς · οἱ [πρῶτ]οι

In tympanum

[*Ἀγαθῇ*]

*Τύχη*

On horizontal cornice

name

[— — — — —]

[— — —]λης) *Βερενικίδης*

contest

5 [— — — — —]

[*Ὀλυμπι*]είων παίδων *στάδιον* 

On stele proper

6 [*Ἐπὶ ἄρχοντος* Φλ. *Ἀρρι*]ανού

[*Παιανιέως* — — — — —]ενον[...]

[— — — — —] καὶ *Ἱερ*[...]

9 [— — — — —] τὸν *ἑα*[υτ...]

[— — — — —]

Restorations: 1–2 Kirchner in *IG II²* 3395 except for [*πρῶτ*]οι (Oliver) or [*ἔφηβ*]οι Mitsos. 3 Mitsos. 5 Oliver (cf. L. Moretti, *Iscrizioni agonistiche greche* no.44). 6 Mitsos except for *ἐπὶ* (Oliver). 7 [*Παιανιέως, κοσμητ*]εύον[τος] Mitsos. 8 [*Ἀθηναίου Ῥαμνουαίου*] καὶ *Ἱερ*[έως] Mitsos. 9–10 οἱ *ἔφηβοι*] τὸν *ἑα*[υτῶν] | *κοσμητήν* Mitsos.

The restoration [*ἔφηβ*]οι in line 2 seems to me excluded because “the ephebes of the emperor Antoninus Pius” is an unintelligible phrase and because it would make the boys in line 4 ephebes of the year of Arrian’s archonship. *IG II²* 2052 preserves the complete panel of the tribe Ptolemais for that year and the name mentioned in line 4 does not appear on it. Rather, the inscription on the cornice records the names of two victors who were the first Olympic victors from Athens in the reign of Antoninus Pius. It refers, then, to the Olympic Games of A.D. 145, since Arrian, whose name Mitsos attractively restored in line 6, was archon in 145/6.

It is not a herm as you might expect it to be, if the monument were one erected by ephebes in honor of the cosmete.

### *Arrian’s Praenomen*

The Athenian inscription published with photograph and good commentary by D. Peppas-Delmouzou, *AAA* 3 (1970) 377–80, provides the praenomen in abbreviation. I read it from the stone as *lambda* rather than *alpha* :

$\overline{\Lambda}$  · Φλ · *Ἀρριαν*ὸ[ν]

*ὑπατικόν* φιλό[σο]

φο[ν]