

ANTHONY CORBEILL : A New Painting of Calypso in Pliny the Elder

At *Naturalis Historia* 35.147, Pliny offers precious information on female artists of Greece and Rome. This article emends Pliny's text, thereby attributing a more precise subject to a painting by a Greek woman.

Linderski has discussed the difficulties associated with text and interpretation of the first sentence of 35.147 (*ZPE* 2003.83-87). Pliny lists female painters from antiquity, including Irene, daughter of Cratinus (text of Mayhoff 1897): *Irene, Cratini pictoris filia et discipula, puellam, quae est Eleusine, Calypso, senem et praestigiatores Theodorum, Alcisthenen saltatorem* (sc. *pinxit*). Since the nineteenth century, scholars have debated whether *Calypso* is here in the accusative or nominative case; in other words, was she one of the known works of Irene or does Pliny include an unattested painter named Calypso? Linderski ingeniously reconstructed how ancient uncertainty over the form *Calypso* had corrupted the text. An overly meticulous scribe glossed *Calypso* with the more common accusative in late antiquity, *Calypsonem*. This form was subsequently incorporated into the text and miscorrected to *Calypso senem*. Linderski therefore proposed deleting *senem* and reading *Calypso* as accusative, the accusative form that we know Pliny preferred (*Char. gramm.* p. 162.6-11).

While agreeing that Calypso is a painting, I propose here an emendation that is more plausible paleographically and accords well with known representations of the nymph. These fall into two main types: standing beside Odysseus at his raft (three examples) or seated alone (two examples, one of which is attested at *Plin. nat.* 35.132). I read *Calypso sedentem* for the transmitted text (*Calypso senem et*) and then discuss five points that favor this emendation. I close by conjecturing how Irene's "new" subject – a Calypso seated, presumably after the departure of Odysseus – can supplement our appreciation of women artists of Greece and Rome.

Mots-clés :

Pliny the Elder – Calypso – Irene – Odysseus – Textual emendation – Female painters – Female artists