

REMEMBERING EUMOLPUS: THE INTERTEXTUAL  
AND ITS IMPORT IN THE *PHOENISSAE*\*

By

JOANNA KOMOROWSKA

Among the many surprises awaiting the Athenian public gathered to watch the Euripidean *Phoenissae*<sup>1</sup>, a drama dated somewhere around 411 BC<sup>2</sup>, one notices the relatively short mention of Eumolpus' invasion of Attica (ll. 852–857). The mention emerges in the central episode of the drama, an episode memorable e.g. for the fact that no central personage seems to grace the stage, while those present prove not to be what they are expected to be. Further, the mention contributes to the picture one forms of Teiresias as this latter appears in the drama; his advice, we are told, was of fundamental importance in the recent war, deciding the fight in the Athenians' favour. To quote the exact wording of the passage in question, the words being spoken by the seer himself:

κόπωι παρείμαι γοῦν Ἐρεχθιδῶν ἄπο  
δεῦρ' ἔκκομισθεῖς τῆς πάροιθεν ἡμέρας·  
κάκεϊ γὰρ ἦν τις πόλεμος Εὐμόλπου δορός  
οὗ καλλινίκους Κεκροπίδας ἔθηκ' ἐγώ·  
καὶ τόνδε χρυσοῦν στέφανον, ὡς ὄραϊς, ἔχω  
λαβῶν ἀπαρχὰς πολεμίων σκυλευμάτων.

---

\* Throughout the essay the Greek is of the J. DIGGLE edition (OCT 1994) for the surviving plays, of F. JOUAN and H. VAN LOOY (Budé 2000) for the fragments of the *Erechtheus*. The English translation is that of E.P. COLERIDGE as available on the Perseus Project website (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>) for the *Phoenissae* and Martin CROPP's (after CROPP 2009) for the *Erechtheus*. The Perseus database was also employed for the translations of Thucydides, orators, and others. A shortened version of this article was presented at the University of Málaga; hence, I would like to thank Prof. Aurelio PÉREZ-JIMÉNEZ and other participants in the discussion for their remarks. Also, I thank the anonymous reader for "Eos" for all the care employed in the reading of the manuscript and for all the suggestions that contributed to its present shape.

<sup>1</sup> Concerning the innovations introduced into the mythical fabric of the plot, cf. e.g. MASTRONARDE 1994: 25–30; SAID 1985.

<sup>2</sup> For the overview of the dating problem, cf. BRUSEWICZ 2003: 11.