From Leah Di Segni

PSEUDO-HEGESIPPUS — some samples of Blocker’s incorrect translation

Problems are marked in green.

**Ps. Heg., *Hist*. I, 15, 2, CSEL 66, p. 23**

Quem ubi comperit Aristobulus ad urbem Scythopolim atque inde Coreas appropinquare, unde erat Iudaeae exordium possessionis, confugit in Alexandrium castrum munitum admodum et in monte altissimo situm. quo cognito iubet eum Pompeius descendere.

Blocker

When Aristobolus learned him to be near the city of Scythopolis and from there to be approaching Coreas, from which there was the beginning of the possessions of Judaea, he took refuge in the fortress Alexandrium which was exceedingly well fortified and located on a high mountain. Having learned which Pompey orders him to come down;

LDS

When Aristobulus discovered that he <Pompey> was approaching the city of Scythopolis, and thence Coreae, where the beginning of the lot of Judaea was, he fled to Alexandrium, a fortress very strongly walled and situated on a very high mountain. When this became known to Pompey, he ordered him to come down.

*Possessio* translates ‘lot’, as in ‘lots of the tribes’ in the Bible. In the parallel passage of Josiphus, *Bell*. I, 134: ὅθεν ἡ Ἰουδαίων ἄρχεται χώρα.

**Ps. Heg., *Hist*. I, 18, 1, CSEL 66, p. 29**

At in Syria Scaurus, cui ducis officio praeerat, receptis urbibus quas Iudaei invaserant, in mediterraneis Scythopoli, Ippone, Pella, Samaria, Iamnia, Maresa, Azoto, Arethusa, maritimis quoque Gaza, Iope, Dora et ea quae Sratonis turris olim vocabatur, postea autem Caesarea noncupata sub imperio Herodis, qui et ornatum addidit et nomen mutavis, adversum Arabas bellum moliebatur.

Blocker

While in Syria Scaurus, to whom the office of commander had been assigned, those cities which the Jews had invaded having been recovered, inland Scythopolis, Ipponis, Pella, Samaria, Iamnia, Maresa, Azoto, Arethusa, on the coast also Gaza, Iope, Dora and that which was once called Strato's tower, afterwards however was named Caesarea under the of Herod, who both added decorations and changed the name, he undertook war against Arabia.

LDS

But in Syria, of which he was in charge as governor, Scaurus, after he took back the cities which the Jews had conquered – in the interior Scythopolis, Hippus, Pella, Samaria, Iamnia, Marisa, Azotus, Arethusa, on the coast also Gaza, Jaffa, Dora, and (the city) which once was called Straton’s Tower and later renamed Caesarea under the rule of Herod, who beautified it and changed its name as well – prepared a war against the Arabs.

NB: True, commander is a correct translation of *ducis*, but Scaurus — who does not appear in the parallel passage of Josephus, *Bell*. I, 156–157 — was governor *propraetore* of Syria: Jos., *Ant*. XIV, 79. A *dux* is not only a military leader, and learning about Scaurus could have invited a neutral term, e.g. ‘ruler’, which would not have betrayed the truth.

**Ps. Heg., *Hist*. III, 6, 1, CSEL 66, pp. 194–195**

Utrique Galilaeae Syria et Phoenice adhaerent disterminantque eam a solis occasu Ptolemais territorii sui finibus et mons Carmelus, qui erat ante Galilaeis, nunc vero Tyriorum finibus adsociatus, cui conectitur Gabaa civitas, quae quondam Iudaeis causa gravis exitii fuit. ab oriente eam Ippene et Gadara suis finibus resecant; eadem autem et Gaulanitidi regioni et regno Agrippae confinia praescripta veteri aevo fuere. a meridiano latere Scythopolis et Samaria suis utraque excipiunt regionibus nec ultra fluenta Iordanis patiuntur extendi. septentrionalia eius a dextero latere Tyrus claudit omnisque regio Tyriorum, cuius obiectu Galilaeae spatia definiuntur.

Blocker

Syria and Phoenice touch each Galilaea and Ptolomais with the boundaries of its territory and Mount Carmelus limits them on the west, Mount Carmelus which previously belonged to the Galilaeans, but now is joined to the territory of the Tyrians, to which is joined the state Gabaa, which at one time was a great source of mischief for the Jews. On the east Ippene and Gadara cut it off with their territories; moreover the same boundaries were prescribed in ancient times to the Gaulanitidian region and to the kingdom of Agrippa. On the southern flank Scythopolis and Samaria with their own territories intercept each\* and they are not allowed to extend beyond the river Jordanis. Its northern parts Tyrus shuts off on the right side and all the territory of the Tyrians, by whose interposition the territories of Galilaea are delimited.

\* But *utraque* is nominative! And here a bit of geographical knowledge, or just looking at an atlas, would had made it clear that Josephus is now referring to only one Galilee, Lower Galilee, which extends south of Upper Galilee. And so does ps. Hegesippus. LDS

LDS

Syria and Phoenice border on both Galilees <Lower and Upper>, and on the side of the setting sun (Galilee) is bounded by Ptolemais with its territory and by Mount Carmel, which formerly belonged to the Galilaeans but now is attached to the boundaries of the Tyrians; to this (mountain) adjoins the town of Gabaa, which was once the cause of grave ruin to the Jews. From the east Hippene and Gadara cut it back with their territories; and the same frontiers had been outlined of old also for the district of Golan and for Agrippa’s kingdom. On the south, Scythopolis and Samaria face it, each one with its territory, and keep it from extending beyong the waters of the Jordan. Its northern part is bounded on the right by Tyre and all the land of the Tyrians, which limits the extent of Galilee by lying opposite it.

**Ps. Heg., *Hist*. III, 19, 1, CSEL 66, pp. 221–222**

Et quia ad hiemandum et tempus oportunum et civitas erat, duos ordines in Caesarea constituit, decimum quoque et quintum ordinem in urbe Scythopoli\* ne Caesarea totius onere exercitus adtereretur. ideoque memorata urbs Dianae Scythicae consecrata, tamquam a Scythis condita, et appellata civitas Scytharum ut Massilia Graecorum. situs loci declarat ingenita duritia conditores patentia magis camporum quam conducibilia habitationis usui delegisse. namque aperta et aspero hiemis et ferventi tempore aestatis plus laboris habent quam delectationis, quoniam et hieme plus frigori patent et gravior in his locis aestatis flagrantia est, in quibus solem totum recipiunt sine ulla arvi virentis amoenitate. itaque campestris et maritima regio memoratae urbis etiam aestu maris amplius vaporabatur.

And because the season and the city were suitable for spending the winter, he stationed two legions in Caesarea, also the tenth and the fifth legion in the city of Scythopolis lest Caesarea should be worn away by the burden of the entire army. And therefore the celebrated city dedicated to Diana Scythica, although founded by Scythians, and named a city of the Scythians as Marseilles is of the Greeks. The location of the place reveals that the founders selected it more from the innate accessible hardness of the plains than from its advantages for the use of residences. For instance open to both the severity of winter and the burning season of summer it has more of labor than of pleasure, inasmuch as in winter they are open more to cold and the burning heat of summer is more severe in these places, in which they receive the entire sun without any pleasantness of a green field. And so the flat and coastal region of the renowned city is heated even more by the heat of the sea.

⯎ And since both the time of the year and the city were suitable for wintering, he placed two legions in Caesarea and also the Tenth and Fifth legion <read: the Fifteenth legion> in the city of Scythopolis, lest Caesarea should be worn out by the burden of the entire army. And said city is consecrated to Scythian Diana for that reason, its having been founded by Scythians, and is called ‘city of the Scythians’ like Massilia <Marseilles> (is called ‘city) of the Greeks’. The situation of the site indicates that the founders, in their innate hardihood, preferred the open spaces of the plains to their suitability for dwelling. Indeed, spaces exposed to the bitter weather of winter and to the boiling (weather) of summer have more of hardship than of pleasure, for in winter they are more exposed to the cold, and the burning heat of summer is more oppressive in these places, where (the exposed spaces) receive all the sun without any pleasantness of greenery. Thus, the level and maritime district of said city was even more filled with humidity by the heat of the sea.

**Ps. Heg., *Hist*. III, 22, 1, CSEL 66, p. 226**

Unde Vespasianus III ordines validiores acciri et Scythopolim\* petere directo in negotium filio decernit. ea erat X urbium maxima vicina Tiberiadis.

Blocker

Whence in a task to his son Vespasian ordered three strong legions to be summoned and to attack Scythopolis directly. Of ten cities that was the greatest neighboring to Tiberias.

LDS

Hence Vespasian ordered three stronger legions to be brought over and to move to Scythopolis, directing his son <Titus> to do the business. This was the greatest of the Ten Cities <of the Decapolis> and a neighbour of Tiberias.

LDS: I have not translated the rest, which describes the attack of the Roman army on Tiberias and the city's surrender without a fight. But because of the erroneous translation of *petere*, in the continuation of Blocker’s text it appears that the subject of this description is Scythopolis, not Tiberias.