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VOLUME XXV.**

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TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
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I. — *Notes on the Prepositions in Gellius.*

By CHARLES KNAPP, Ph.D.,
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IN his use of prepositions Aulus Gellius often departs widely from the practice of the classical Latin writers, in no particular, however, more strikingly than in the *coupling of prepositions with cases* to express thoughts which, in the best days of the language, the case-form by itself was amply competent to convey with clearness and precision. This phenomenon is, in part, an evidence of decay in the language. Even before the time of Gellius the cases had suffered a loss of vitality, so that frequently the unaided case-form seemed to the writer insufficient to indicate the exact connection of ideas which he desired to suggest to the minds of his readers. Yet in the main the excessive use of prepositions in Gellius is due to other causes, to wit, his passion for the archaic Latin writers, and the influence of the *sermo plebeius*. Of the peculiarities discussed in the first part of this paper, some are to be regarded probably as archaisms. Such are *cum valebo ab oculis*, *revisere* and *visere ad*, *quaeso tecum*, while *dicere ad*, *dictitare ad*, *inquit ad*, *dedere ad*, *degustare ex*, and *esitare ex* point to the *sermo plebeius*. Our author's predilection for prepositions leads him (1) to use them where they are unnecessary, and where their employment is contrary to the best usage; (2) to repeat them without adequate cause; and (3) where the choice is open between a case con-

struction (or a clause) and a prepositional form, to prefer the latter. We will consider examples of these points in order.

In xvi. 6, Gellius describes his encounter with a certain *linguae Latinae litterator* concerning the meaning and origin of the word *bidentes*. In § 8 he says to his adversary: *sed nunc a te rogavi, ecquam scias esse huiusce vocabuli rationem*. Above, in § 4, in narrating the preliminaries of the conflict, he tells us that the litterator iubebat *se rogare*,¹ *si quis quid omnium rerum vellet discere*. For the normal construction compare iii. i. 4, iv. i. 12, xviii. i. 9. In writing *rogare a* Gellius was probably thinking of *petere a, quaerere a*. *Orare a* occurs xvii. 10. 7; compare Pacuv. 122 Ribb.

A sentence worth noting is *cum valebo ab oculis, revise ad me* xiii. 31. 10. For the meaning which we must assign here to *ab*, see Draeger *Historische Syntax*,² i. 622. 4; Schmalz,³ § 136; Lorenz on Plaut. *Mil. Glor.* 631. With our text we may compare Plaut. *Epid.* 129 *A morbe valui, ab animo aeger*; *Cist.* i. i. 62 *doleo ab animo, doleo ab oculis*; *Aul.* 186. Contrast Cic. *Brutus*, § 77 *si corpore valuisset*; Nepos *Phoc.* iv. 1 *cum propter aetatem pedibus iam non valeret*; Sall. *Bell. Ing.* xi. 5; Iuv. vi. 100. Here Gellius would seem to be copying Plautus. With *revise ad me* in this passage compare *revises ad me* vi. 17. 11; Plaut. *Truc.* ii. 4. 79; Lucr. ii. 359, where Munro cites Lucr. v. 636, remarking that the construction is common in the older writers. *Visere ad* appears in Gellius in xviii. 8. 2 *conquestus quod ad se aegrotum non viseret*; perhaps too xix. 10. 1. Compare Ter. *Heey.* 189, 237, 339 (the simple accusative 341); Lucr. vi. 1239; Ellis on Catullus x. 2. Lewis and Short (so also Klotz) cite in this connection Piso, the Annalist, ap. Gell. vii. 9. 5 *dicitur ad collegam venisse visere aegrotum*. But in view of the order of the words, it is perhaps better to con-

¹ Such inconsistencies are present almost without number in Gellius. How far they are due to a striving for variety, and how far to the composite character of his style (he has borrowed from many quarters), it would be difficult to determine with accuracy.

² This work (2d edition) will be cited henceforth simply as Draeger.

³ This and similar references are to the treatise on Latin Syntax in Müller's *Handbuch*, 2^d, pp. 386-531.

strue *ad collegam* with *venisse*. A precisely similar passage is Gell. xvi. 3. 2 *ad quendam aegrum cum isset visere*. It might, of course, be suggested that in Ter. *Hecy.* 189 (Nostra ilico It visere ad eam) the words *ad eam* should be joined to *it* and not to *visere*. But here the order of words, as well as the parallels at verses 237 and 339, point the other way. I know of no instance of *visere ad* or *revisere ad* in any *prose* writer of the best period. Gellius himself often uses *visere* as fully transitive, e.g. xvi. 19. 5, 23; xii. 5. 1; ii. 2. 1; ii. 26. 1.

In the following passages *ad* with the accusative seems to take the place of a simple dative of the classical period:

(1) ii. 21. 6 *tum quispiam ex his, qui se ad litteras memoriasque veteres dederat*. Draeger i. 576 cites Livy xxvii. 15. 2 *ad . . . consulem . . . Lucani . . . dederunt sese*; also examples of *deditio ad* from viii. 25 and xxviii. 22. Livy also uses *restituere ad* and *proditio ad*. In all these phrases the physical meaning of the verb or the noun is preserved, and the preposition is amply justified by the idea of motion inherent in that force. See Kühnast *Livian. Synt.* p. 154; Nägelsbach *Lat. Stilist.* § 123. 1. In Gellius, however, the verb has its transferred sense, and the preposition would be hard to parallel, at least from any earlier author.¹

(2) v. 14. 10 *introducitur erat inter complures ceteros ad pugnam bestiarum datos servus viri consularis*; v. 14. 27 *me statim . . . dandum ad bestias curavit*.

(3) ii. 16. 9 (Sulpicius Apollinaris is the speaker) *Anchises enim, qui haec ad filium dicit*; xi. 4. 2 *Hecuba est ad Ulixem dicens*; xvi. 3. 2; xix. 5. 4 *Haec quidem ille ad nos . . . dictitabat*; *loqui ad* i. 3. 1; similar is i. 3. 20 *his ad eum verbis usus est*.

(4) ii. 26. 7 *Tum Fronto ad Favorinum . . . inquit*; so in ii. 29. 11; xix. 8. 9; xix. 10. 13.² See Petschenig in Wölfflin's *Archiv.* 5, 576.

¹ *Dedere*, in the physical sense, is constructed with the dative, ii. 12. 6; x. 12. 2; xii. 1. 21. The dative occurs also at iii. 1. 9, xix. 2. 2, where the verb has its metaphorical meaning.

² For *inquit* with the dative, cf. i. 10. 1; xix. 13. 2, 4; Weissenborn on Livy iv. 40. 6.