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Love is in the hands:

Looking for traces of affective relationship between human and object

in votive epigrams

1. Sophocles, *Philoctetes*, 1123-1131 (transl. Lloyd-Jones, modified):

οἴμοι μοι, καί που πολιᾶς
πόντου θινὸς ἐφήμενος
ἐγγελᾷ, χερὶ πάλλων
τὰν ἐμὰν μελέου τροφάν,
τὰν οὐδείς ποτ᾽ ἐβάστασεν.

ὦ τόξον φίλον, ὦ φίλων
χειρῶν ἐκβεβιασμένον,

ἦ που ἐλεινὸν ὁρᾷς, φρένας εἴ τινας
ἔχεις, τὸν Ἡράκλειον
ἄθλιον ὧδέ σοι
οὐκέτι χρησόμενον τὸ μεθύστερον,
ἄλλου δ᾽ ἐν μεταλλαγᾷ
πολυμηχάνου ἀνδρὸς ἐρέσσῃ,

ὁρῶν μὲν αἰσχρὰς ἀπάτας,
στυγνὸν δὲ φῶτ᾽ ἐχθοδοπόν,
μυρί᾽, ἀπ᾽ αἰσχρῶν ἀνατέλ-
λονθ᾽, ὅς ἐφ᾽ ἡμῖν κάκ᾽ ἐμήσατ᾽.

Alas for me, somewhere by the shore
of the gray sea he sits
and mocks me, brandishing in his hand
that which was my livelihood, miserable one,
that which no other had held.

O Beloved bow, O you
that were forced from my loving hands,
You look with pity, I think, if you have any feeling,
upon the unhappy friend of Heracles,
who shall never use you anymore,
but, in the grasp of
a cunning man, you are plied instead,

looking on his shameful deceptions
and on the loathsome enemy,
who contrived against me innumerable
evils from shameful deeds!

2. Inscription on a "poros" base, from the acropolis of Halae, ca. 600-550 B.C. (*cf.* Lazzarini 824 = *CEG* 348, Goldmann 1915, n°1).

Εὔϝανδρος μ΄ἀνέθεκε [κόρ]ον περι[κ]αλέα πο[ιϝο͂]ν
Χερσὶ φίλαισιν ἔδο[κεν τἀθά]ναι [πολ]ιόχ[οι]

3. *CEG*, 236, ca. 500-480? Mus. Ep. n. 6398:

[- ˘ Ἀθεν]αίαι ˘ ˘ ¯ ἀν]έτεκε ˘ ¯ ¯]
[χε]ρσὶν [˘ ¯ ˘ ˘ ¯ ....] παῖς [˘ ˘ ¯ ˘ ˘ ¯]

Hansen's restitution:
Αθεναίαι τόδ΄ ἄγαλμα ἀνέθεκε
χερσὶν ἑαῖσι, cf. *Il.* 24, 165 (χερσίν ἑῇσι)

4. *CEG*, 280a, ca. 425-400?, Mus. Ep. n. 13272:
[.] ο [
Παλλά[δι τριτογενεῖ
χερσὶ κ[

Οἶκον

5. *CEG*, 586, ca. 350-300, Mus. Ep. n. 13164, 4-7:
Δαιοκράτης (*sic*) κοινοῦ (*sic*) τέρμα βίου,
οἰκείαις δ΄ἐγ χερσὶ τέκνων ἀλόχου τε ἀδα[κ]ρυ[τὶ]
[ε]ὐξυνέτου Μοίρας εἰς τὸ χρεὼν δίδοται.

6. Peek 1571 = *IG* XIV 1363, Rome, 4th century AD, 7-8:
τοὺς δ΄ ἄμφω χαρίεν τέλος ἔλλαχεν, οὓς κτερέιζε
χερσὶ φίλαις θυγάτηρ γλυκερὴ Παυλεῖνα τοκῆας

7. *Anthologia Graeca*, VII, 278, 1-4:
Οὐδὲ νέκυς, ναυηγὸς ἐπὶ χθόνα Θῆρις ἐλασθεὶς
 κύμασιν ἀγρύπνων λήσομαι ἠιόνων.
ἦ γὰρ ἁλιρρήκτοις ὑπὸ δειράσιν, ἀγχόθι πόντου
 δυσμενέος, **ξείνου χερσὶν** ἔκυρσα τάφου·

8. *Anthologia Graeca*, VII, 554:
Λατύπος Ἀρχιτέλης Ἀγαθάνορι παιδὶ θανόντι
 χερσὶν ὀιζυραῖς ἡρμολόγησε τάφον·
αἰαῖ πέτρον ἐκεῖνον, ὃν οὐκ ἐκόλαψε σίδηρος,
 ἀλλ' ἐτάκη πυκινοῖς δάκρυσι τεγγόμενος.
φεῦ, στήλη, φθιμένῳ κούφη μένε, κεῖνος ἵν' εἴπῃ·
 „Ὄντως πατρῴη **χεὶρ** ἐπέθηκε λίθον."

9. *Anthologia Graeca*, VI, 93:
Ἁρπαλίων ὁ πρέσβυς, ὁ πᾶς ῥυτίς, οὑπιλινευτής,
 τόνδε παρ' Ἡρακλεῖ θῆκέ με τὸν σιβύνην,
ἐκ πολλοῦ πλειῶνος ἐπεὶ βάρος **οὐκέτι χεῖρες**
 ἔσθενον, ἐς κεφαλὴν δ' ἤλυθε λευκοτέρην

10. *Anthologia Graeca*, VI, 83:
Τὴν κιθάρην Εὔμολπος ἐπὶ τριπόδων ποτὲ Φοίβῳ
 ἄνθετο**, γηραλέην χεῖρ'** ἐπιμεμφόμενος,
εἶπε δέ· „Μὴ **ψαύσαιμι** λύρης ἔτι μηδ' ἐθελήσω
 τῆς πάρος ἁρμονίης ἐμμελέτημα φέρειν.
ἠιθέοις μελέτω κιθάρης μίτος· ἀντὶ δὲ πλήκτρου
 σκηπανίῳ **τρομερὰς χεῖρας** ἐρεισάμεθα."

11. *Anthologia Graeca*, VI, 65:
Τὸν τροχόεντα μόλυβδον, ὃς ἀτραπὸν οἶδε χαράσσειν
 ὀρθὰ παραξύων ἰθυτενῆ κανόνα,
καὶ χάλυβα σκληρὸν καλαμηφάγον, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὸν
 ἡγεμόνα γραμμῆς ἀπλανέος κανόνα
καὶ λίθον ὀκριόεντα, δόναξ ὅθι δισσὸν ὀδόντα
 θήγεται ἀμβλυνθεὶς ἐκ δολιχογραφίης,
καὶ βυθίην Τρίτωνος ἁλιπλάγκτοιο χαμεύνην,
 σπόγγον, ἀκεστορίην πλαζομένης γραφίδος,
καὶ κίστην πολύωπα μελανδόκον, εἰν ἑνὶ πάντα
 εὐγραφέος τέχνης ὄργανα ῥυομένην,
Ἑρμῇ Καλλιμένης, **τρομερὴν** ὑπὸ γήραος ὄκνῳ
 χεῖρα καθαρμόζων ἐκ δολιχῶν καμάτων.

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