

gradualmente l'iniziale distinzione di fatto, dei mezzi oggettivamente diversi da lui usati, nella distinzione di valore dell'impegno con cui li usa: a consentirci cioè, nel nostro caso specifico, di passare, senza astratti funambolismi, della preliminare distinzione, che diremo orizzontale, fra le parole e gli altri mezzi di espressione umana, all'ulteriore distinzione, verticale, fra quelle parole che appaiono più tese e trasformate dall'urgere della forza nuova di un individuo che per mezzo loro si esprime, ed esprimendosi nella sua novità umana collabora all'opera creatrice della storia, e quelle invece che di questa forza serbano minima, o nessuna, traccia.

Ulteriore distinzione, che è pur l'ultima cui possa e debba giungere la critica. La quale dunque, se non si respinge tutto quanto si è detto, non sembra irraggiungibile per la via di un'indagine rigorosamente ed esclusivamente storica. Sembra a me anzi che fra le vie battute sia questa la più sicura e rettilinea, perchè, restituendo, meglio di ogni altra, alla poesia tutto il suo valore umano (e soddisfacendo così quell'urgente istanza storica da cui ha preso le mosse questo discorso), le restituisce insieme, e di conseguenza, più coerentemente di ogni altra, il suo significato più antico e più vero, che è quello di *creazione*.

## -ERE AND -ERUNT ENDINGS IN ST JEROME'S EPISTLES AND LIVES OF THE HERMITS\*

By E. COLEIRO

The careful composition of most of the Epistles and the Lives of the Hermits of St Jerome is conspicuous in the choice between the *-ere* and *-erunt* endings of the third person plural of the Perfect. The extant Epistles are 154 in number and the Lives of the Hermits are three in number: that of Paul written in 374 or 375, that of Hilarion in 390, and that of Malchus written in 391.

### IN THE CLAUSULA

In many cases the choice is determined by the exigences of the clausula, both final, at the end of the sentence, and inner, at the end of a separate colon or *membrum*, when the *-ere* and *-erunt* verb is not the last word in either case. In such a case the *-ere* is mostly used to form the basic element of the clausula, the last *ē* being the inner vowel of the cretic, — — —. Thus:

*-ere* in final clausula: *restituēre lacrimā* (11.4; a dichoreus with the last syllable of the cretic resolved into two short ones, or a fourth paeon, a favourite of Aristotle); *apparēre dāpēs* (H.7; cretic-spondee); *fuēre pās-tōres* (M.5).

Other places: 14.3.2; 14.5.3; 22.19.6; 45.3.2; 45.4.1; 60.16.3; 64.8.2; 65.14.6; 84.11.4; 112.10.5; 112.17.3; 127.9.2.

*-ere* needed in inner clausula: *vicēre cūm saeculo*, / *quae* (7.6.1); *aedificaverē turrem*, / *tunc* (21.8.2); *babuerē vitam*, / *quae* (119.5.10); *sumpsere principium*, / *quorum* (P.1); *resiluere naviculae*, / *et* (H.41).

Other examples: 1.9.1; 2.2; 3.2.1; 9.3; 22.29.4; 52.2.2; 54.4.2; 64.16.3; 65.14.2; 71.5.1; 78.8.3; 84.4.3; 84.11.3; 108.2.3; 112.14.5; 119.9.3; 120.1.4; 120.1.14; 122.3.15; 125.14.1; 125.16.1; 127.13.1; 130.12.2; 130.17.2; 133.2.1; 133.8.1; P.9; H.42.

\* The quotations from *The Letters* are according to the Vienna *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*, Vols. 54 and 55, and are made by reference to the number of the letter, the paragraph and the section; the section only is given in letters of one paragraph. Quotations from the *Lives* are made by reference to Mignes, P.L. XXIII, P = *Vita Pauli*, H = *Vita Hilarionis*, M = *Vita Malchi*.

\* *-erunt* needed for inner clausula: in the following six cases only: *appel- laverunt mulieres* (120.5.3); *prophetaverunt prophetae* (120.9.19); *adoraverunt figuras* (121.10.15); *oderunt suos* (125.6.2); *acceperunt cibos* (H.14); *nuntiaverunt patri* (H.17).

#### IN NON-CLAUSULA CASES

Clausula considerations apart, Jerome's use of *-ere* and *-erunt* is predominantly Tacitean. As in Tacitus (cf. R.H. Martin, '*-ere* and *-erunt* in Tacitus' in *Classical Review*, April 1946), at the end of the sentence he by far prefers *-erunt*; in a medial position he very often uses *-erunt* with a Present Perfect meaning and *-ere* as an Aorist. Only in the less carefully written letters is *-erunt* recurrently found with an aoristic meaning in a medial position.

In a considerable number of cases *-erunt* with an aoristic meaning is preferred in a medial position to avoid hiatus with the initial vowel of the following word. In a few instances it is used as a variety form, along with *-ere* in the same sentence.

#### (a) At the end of the sentence:

*-erunt*: *cecinerunt* (52.3.6); *praeterierunt* (130.19.5); *pependerunt* (H.40). Other places: 1.9.2; 18A.2.2; 18A.7.2; 22.38.1; 54.1.2; 112.7.8; 112.16.3; 119.9.3; 120.1.15; 120.10.4; 121.5.6; 122.1.16; 123.15.4; 125.8.1; 125.16.1; H.1; H.20; H.28.

*-ere* at the end of the sentence is used only four times: 8.2; 130.6.3; P.8; H.23.

#### (b) Medial position:

##### (i) *-ere* with an aoristic meaning:

*in quibus olim fuere regna non modica* (60.16.4); *nunquam dormire, nunquam mortui sunt* (119.7.11); *obviam processere* (H.25); and 58.5.3; 77.5.2; 77.11.3; 84.1.1; 123.14.5; 129.7.3; 130.4.4; 130.6.3; 130.12.2; 141.14.3; H.1; H.25.

One will note the recurrence in Epp. 77 and 130 which are very rhetorical in style and where a distinction of this kind is therefore to be expected.

##### *-erunt* with an aoristic meaning:

Although the instances listed hereunder are more numerous than those in the preceding list for *-ere*, it will be noticed that they are mostly taken from expository and theological letters. Epp. 120 and 121 are written with hardly any eye for style at all:

a) From expository and theological letters: 18A.2.3; 120.1.4; 120.1.15;

120.8.4; 120.9.4; 120.9.11; 120.10.4; 121.1.8; 121.5.4; 121.7.5; 121.8.13; 121.10.5 (4 times); 121.10.15; 121.11.3; 129.1.1; 129.4.2.

b) From other letters and the Lives: 125.8.1; 130.14.5; 147.2.2; 147.10.1 (twice); P.2; P.16; H.12.

##### *-erunt* with a present perfect meaning:

*in quibus per tanta iam saecula tantorum ingenium sudaverunt* (27.13); *qui vivunt et habent testimonium fidei et necdum receperunt promissionem Dei* (119.10.1); and 6.1.1; 17.2.2; 17.3.2; 18A.1.2; 22.6.1 (twice); 22.41.4; 26.4.1. 28.2.1; 40.5; 42.3; 45.2.3; 45.4.1; 52.3.2; 112.11.2; 112.13.1; 112.13.3; 112.20.1; 119.10.1 (three times); 119.10.2; 112.22.3; 120.8.3; 120.10.4; 120.10.13; 121.1.6; 121.2.5; 121.2.6; 121.2.7; 121.2.11; 121.4.4. 121.4.7; 121.10.20; 121.11.6; 121.11.15; 122.1.5; 123.13.2; 123.17.2; 124.15.1; 125.4; 127.2.3; 127.12.1; 128.5.1; 130.6.7; 130.7.10; 130.8.3; 130.14.6; 130.19.6; 133.3.2; 133.14.4; 138.1; 140.7.3; 140.10.1; 140.11.1; 140.16.1; 141.16.4; 141.18.2; 147.3.6; 147.6.2.

##### (ii) Variety choice:

*-erunt* is used with an aoristic meaning for variety, *-ere* being used in the same sentence:

*aedificavere turrem, tunc dogmata superbiae confixerunt volentes curiositate non licita in ipsius caeli alta penetrare* (21.8.2); *superbiam humilitate vicerunt, tantique fuere meriti, ut captivi victoribus imperarent* (79.2.5); *ad cadaver beati senis substituerunt, adulantibusque caudis circa pedes eius accubere* (P.16); *quem postquam patres videre perterriti (erant enim mirae magnitudinis) nuntiaverunt patri* (H.17).

Other places: P.11 (*libaverunt* – *transegere*); H.42 (*transiere* – *coeperunt*); 123.12.1; 130.14.5.

##### (iii) Avoidance of hiatus:

This is especially the case when the *-erunt* verb terminates an inner colon and the first word of the next colon begins with a vowel; an *-ere* would have tended to be elided thus weakening the pause necessary between the two cola:

*quod sibi praestiterunt, / apud quos erat cruda rusticitas* (8.2); *esse coeperunt, / et omnes* (H.24); 7.1.2; 52.3.5; 120.8.10; 121.5.7; 147.3.2; H.22; M.6;

and, not at the end of the colon:

*receperunt eum* (121.5.7); *fuere animalia* (123.8.2); *venerunt ad eum* (H.26); *venerunt itaque* (H.44); 18A.6.4; 22.11.3; 22.32.2; 120.10.15; 121.10.15; 140.6.2; 147.10.1.