

VS47 - Source in Vat.gr.1950 and elsewhere

Post by "Bryan" of May 23, 2024 at 11:59 PM

It is an interesting difference.

Here is Bailey's comment, calling Usener's change from πλείονος to παιῶνος "brilliant."

6. παιῶνος a brilliant emendation of Usener's for the MS. πλείονος. The metaphor here may be, as Usener suggests, from the comic chorus leaving the stage with a τήνελλα καλλίνικος at the end of the play . cf. Aristoph. *Ach.* 1232.

So as we know, he keeps παιῶνος:

[Bailey] ...ἄπιμεν ἐκ τοῦ ζῆν μετὰ καλοῦ παιῶνος ἐπιφωνοῦντες ὡς [εὖ] ἡμῖν βεβίωται.

[Bailey] ...we will leave life crying aloud in a glorious triumph-song that we have lived well.

As you said, if we keep πλείονος, we have something like:

...ἄπιμεν ἐκ τοῦ ζῆν μετὰ καλοῦ πλείονος ἐπιφωνοῦντες ὡς εὖ ἡμῖν βεβίωται.

...we shall depart from life with more [of] good, proclaiming that we have lived well.

I think the phrase "μετὰ καλοῦ πλείονος" is somewhat unusual because "καλοῦ" is an adjective, and "πλείονος" is a comparative adjective, typically modifying a noun. We might expect "μετὰ πλείονος τοῦ καλοῦ" for "with more of the good." But I agree this may not be sufficient reason to divert from the manuscript.