In this article I shall discuss various fragments of Eratosthenes’ *Erigone*. For the convenience of the reader, I shall print Alexandra Rosokoki’s text.  

**Fragment 1:** μέσον δ’ ἕξαυσατο βαύνον

Dr. Rosokoki explained (p. 79) that the poet is describing the lighting of a fire. Borthwick was puzzled by the meaning of this fragment and suggested that “perhaps one should read in Eratosthenes μέσον δ’ ἕξαυσατο βαύνον”. Textual alteration is, however, not warranted. Perfect sense can be made of the transmitted text if we understand that the verb ἕξαυσατο has been used in a causative sense. Thus ἕξαυσατο βαύνον means “made the oven hot”. Note also that the poet has employed the middle form of the verb instead of the active.

**Fragment 2:** καὶ βαθὺν ἀκρήτῳ πλεύμονα τεγγόμενος

Rosokoki notes (p. 80) that πλεύμονα is an Attic form. I would like to add that Atticisms were regularly employed in epic verse: cf. *MPhL* 9, 1992, p. 52.
Fragment 3: μόσχους καὶ χλωρᾶς κλήματος ἐκφύάδας

In her discussion of this line, Rosokoki (p. 82) suggests that since the noun ἐκφύάδας has been given the epithet χλωρᾶς, the noun μόσχους must also have been accompanied by an adjective. I would like to point out, however, that Hellenistic poets were fond of structural *inconcinmitas*⁴. Hence μόσχους may have been employed by the poet without an adjective.

Fragment 4: Ἰκαριοί, τόθι πρῶτά περ ἐις τράγον ὑφικήσαντο
περ ἐις τράγον Rosokoki: περιστραγον D

The reader will note that Rosokoki printed her own alteration περ ἐις τράγον in this fragment. In her commentary (p. 85) she notes that “Hiller ... findet keine Erklärung für das σ vor τράγον.” I would like to point out that perfect sense is provided by the ms. reading περιστραγον⁵. The poet is referring here to the Askoliasmos. Thus the companions of Icarius are said to have danced round the inflated goatskin “in a crooked manner”. The verb περιορχέομαι has been used in *tmesis*. Cf. Callimachus, *Hymn* 3, line 240 – περι πρύλιν ὑφικήσαντο.

Fragment 5: εἰς οτὲ δὴ θορικοῦ καλὸν ἵ κανεν ἔδος

In this fragment the poet mentions Thorikos. I would like to point out that Erastosthenes has employed here the adjective καλός, which was popular in Hellenistic poetry: cf. Theocritus, *Idyll* 1, line 129 σύριγγα καλὰν. Cf. also *Myrtilia* 16, 2001, p. 342.

Fragment 6: οἴνος θ ὅς πυρὶ ἵ σον ἔχει μένος, εὐτ ἂν ἐς ἀνδρα
ἔλθῃ, κυμαίνει δ' ὡ τ' Λίβυσσαν ἡλα
βορέῃς ἥ νότος, τὰ δὲ καὶ κεκρυμμένα φαίνει
βυσσόθεν, ἐκ δ' ἀνδρῶν πάντ' εἰναξε νόον.

⁴ Cf. my *Studies in the Poetry of Nicander*, Amsterdam, 1987, p. 97 (note 149) where I point out that “disbalance is a favourite trick of Nicander’s”. Cf. also *MPhL* 9, 1992, p. 50.
⁵ Hesychius notes that στραγός = σκολιός. For the fact that Hesychius preserves many words which are attested in Hellenistic poetry, cf. my *New Essays in Hellenistic Poetry*, Amsterdam, 1985, p. 118, note 5. Similarly καλὸν was used as an adverb. The neuter singular was frequently used as an adverb in Hellenistic poetry: cf. D. Kidd, *Aratus, Phaenomena*, Cambridge, 1997, p. 499.
Rosokoki states (p. 88) that the three relative sentences in this fragment “haben den Stil eines Mottos”. She then adds that the verb ετίναξε “steht im Aorist”. I would like to suggest that we are faced here with an example of the gnomic aorist. Thus wine is said to remove sense from men.

*Fragmenta dubia*

(1) ἡδωντήρες

Rosokoki suggests (p. 90) that the word ἡδωντήρες (i.e. salt) was employed in a description of a meal by Eratosthenes in his *Erigone*. She explains that salt was used as a seasoning for food. Similarly vinegar and sesame were used to season food.

(2) περιπλέγδην κρεμόνεσσι

On p. 94 Rosokoki discusses the forms ἀκρεμῶν and κρεμῶν (i.e. branch). According to ancient sources, κρεμῶν is connected with the verb κρεμάννυμι (“to hang”), whereas ἀκρεμῶν is connected etymologically with ἄκρος. I would like to suggest that Eratosthenes imagined that in the form ἀκρεμῶν, ἄ- was employed with intensifying force. Thus ἀκρεμῶν means “much hanging” and κρεμῶν means “hanging”.

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7 Cf. LSJ, s.v. ἡδος II: “= δξος, vinegar, used as a flavouring”.