The provenance of *SH 906* = P.Mich. III 139 (MP³ 1458, LDAB 3912) is unknown. The papyrus was purchased in Egypt by B.P. Grenfell and F.W. Kelsey in March or April 1920.¹ It was first published by J.G. Winter in 1922,² commented on by A. Körte,³ and republished with corrections and amendments for the *Michigan Papyri* series by Winter himself, who tentatively assigned the fragment to the “Hesiodic cycle and the Boeotian school.”⁴ This attribution was subsequently rejected by R. Merkelbach, who thought to have identified the papyrus text as an excerpt from Simias of Rhodes’ *Apollo*.⁵ Merkelbach’s analysis did not win the favour of P. Parsons and H. Lloyd-Jones, the masters in fragmentary poetry, who included the fragment in the *adespota papyracea* section of their *Supplementum Hellenisticum*.⁶ Finally, in one of his most recent contributions, L. Di Gregorio, following in Merkelbach’s footsteps, also ascribed the fragment to Simias.⁷ The present article purposes to show the unlikelihood of Merkelbach’s theory, highlighting the contradictions undermining such an ascription.

I print below the text of the *Supplementum*, with a few alterations. The apparatus summarizes a variety of different views and approaches to text, and includes new suggestions by Peter Parsons privately communicated to the author (*).

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  ἄφρι τὸν τηλεθάοντα
  ἵερα δ’ ἀποκίδναται ὀδμή
 οἱ πολυπτύχου ἠγαθέοι
 ἐκατηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος
 Σταφιδίου εὐνηθείς.

Βορέης τε νότος τ’ ἐν πείρας φαίνει
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¹ P. Heilporn, APIS entry no. 1317.
² Winter 1922 (Winter¹).
³ Körte 1927.
⁴ Winter 1936, 19–22 (Winter²).
⁵ Merkelbach 1951, 257–260.
...[abundant?] the earth nourishes in bloom / ...a sacred smell⁸ spreads from the peaks(?) of rocky... / ...[temple?] of far-shooting Apollo / ...Gaia?] having slept with Acheloos [begot the nymphs?] / ...Boreas and Notos at the edges of the earth / ...[during the winter?] are minimal, / and when Notos [delights the nymphs'] splendid youth, and the cold goes away, / ...[they no longer stay? they leave?] hidden [by?] / ...once more into the presence of Gaia / ...before the Mother. Immediately / ...they shake their beautiful tresses / ...the nymphs, wearing [glittering robes?] / ...towards violet-browed Ippothoe / ...[the son of Cronos?] and gold-sandalled Hera / ...in the starry sky / ...untroubled in their hearts / ...earth-shaker, lord of the sea / ...gentle Amphitrite.

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⁸ Di Gregorio's "di frutti (?) uno straordinario odore si diffonde" is, if not wrong, misleading, as the connective particle δέ in v. 2 introduces a new sentence.