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second clue. Despite expectation and notwithstanding thorough excavations, no single typical artifact from Etruscan Tuscany has ever been discovered in Lemnos. Conversely, the Lemnian archaeological data look very different from the Tuscan ones. This shows that the ancestors of the 6th c. BCE Lemnians had a material civilization strikingly dissimilar from the Etruscan culture of Tuscany as evidenced since the beginning of the 8th c. BCE. This could point to a quite early separation of these two Etruscan communities. Finally, where did the Lemnian forerunners come from? From Italy, or from the Eastern Mediterranean, where the ancient writers believed that the Etruscans originated? This fascinating but baffling question is hampered by the scarcity of the available data.

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YVES DUHOUX

Length

Vowel length is phonemic in Ancient Greek, as minimal pairs like the following show:

- *dé* ‘but’ : *dé* ‘indeed’
- *tó* nom.-acc. dual ‘the two’ : *tó* nom.-acc. sing. ‘the’

Since at least Hermann (1816) vowel length has been measured in Greek in terms of → moras: a short → vowel has a single mora, while a long vowel or → diphthong has two (Allen 1987:100; 1973:161–63). → Accentuation is conditioned by the moraic structure of a word and thus by length.

The actual duration of Greek vowels can be only roughly estimated. Durational ratios between long and short vowels can vary considerably. According to some ancient musical

treatises, short vowels possessed one timing unit (mora) and long vowels two (Allen 1973:48); West (1982:20) suggests that the ratio was less than 2:1. It should be remembered that vowels differ not only in their intrinsic durations, but that duration may be affected by context as well (see further Devine and Stephens 1994:61–66) (→ Syllable Weight).

Historically, long vowels in Classical Greek have three sources: inherited long vowels, older combinations of vowel plus → laryngeal, and → compensatory lengthening (see Rix 1992:49–51). Vowel length is for the most part intrinsically represented by choice of letter: short epsilon <ε> and omicron <ο>, long eta <η> and omega <ω>, and long digraphs <ει, ου>. In cases where the graphic system does not indicate vowel length, as with <ι, υ, α>, this can generally be deduced through metrical evidence; cases in which it cannot (essentially closed syllables) are referred to as “hidden quantities” (see Allen 1987:91–95).

In Modern Greek, vowel length is not phonemic, as duration is merely an allophonic feature. Dating this change is not an easy matter, but Allen (1987:93–94) suggests that it is linked to the development from a pitch accent to a → stress accent. He tentatively dates the loss of distinctive vowel length to some point between the second and third centuries CE (→ Developments in Medieval and Modern Greek).

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DAVID GOLDSTEIN

Lesbian (and Asian Aeolic)

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Lesbian, or ‘Asiatic Aeolian’, is a dialect attested in the NW part of Asia Minor by texts extending from the 7th c. BCE to the 3rd c. CE. According