Dear Walter,

We would first like to thank you for the Classics Department’s generous grant to the lyric poets’ mapping project that we have been working on. We would now like to tell you a little about what we have been working on before asking for your help for future progress.

As you know, the ultimate goal is to create an interactive cartographic and network visualization tool for the Network for the Study of Archaic and Classical Greek Song (<http://greeksong.ruhosting.nl>) that will allow users to see where poets travelled and select poets according to criteria like genre and instrument.

Towards that end, over the summer we gathered our dataset from two prosopographies of ancient Greek musicians: Stefanis’ *Dionysiakoi technitai* (1988) and Aspiotes’ *Prosopographia musica Graeca* (2006) and created a preliminary version of our imagined tool with CartoDB. This beta version is accessible at <http://polyphemus.stanford.edu>. This fall, we have been working with CESTA through the Humanities+Design Fellows program to consider using their new software, Palladio, for the final product.

Palladio offers several advantages over our beta version: it contains as an integral feature a network visualization mode, it allows users to view timelines and “arctime” plots of poetic travel, and it displays movement in a more attractive manner. It, however, is not a simple solution to our problems: its interface is cryptic for a non-expert, and several features of the visualization are not ideal for our data (e.g. cities are not labeled, and the links between cities, which represent poetic movement, do not have the poets’ names).

We have spoken to Nicole Coleman about some of these issues. She is reluctant to customize Palladio for an individual project, and she suggested that we seek an external source of funding if we did wish to tweak Palladio for our work. Toward that end we are turning to you now for help. Could your intervention help us convince Ms. Coleman of the value of a customized Palladio?

Sincerely,

David Driscoll

Nolan Epstein

Israel McMullin

Stephen Sansom