

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Professor Susan Setnik, Department of Classics, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155 (susan.setnik@tufts.edu) has submitted the following pages containing the favorite Christmas song in a mixture of Greek and English. One page is on white paper, and the other has a holiday border.

ΠΥΡ-ΡΙΣ the Red-Nosed ΕΛΑΦΟΣ

by Susan Setnik and Reid Barton

Πῦρ-ῖρις the red-nosed ἔλαφος

had a very shiny ῥῖνα. (*or Dative of Possession*)

And if you ever saw it,

you would even say “λάμπει.”

πάντες οἱ ἄλλοι ἔλαφοι

ἐγέλων ἐπ’ αὐτῷ καὶ ὦνοντο¹

They never let poor Πῦρ-ῖρινα

play in any ἐλάφων παιδιᾶς.²

Then ἐπὶ τὰ Διονύσια

Διόνυσος came to say:

“ὦ Πῦρ-ῖρις, with your ῥῖνι so bright,

οὐκ ἄξεις³ τὴν ἄμαξαν⁴ τῆσδε τῆς νυκτός
(*Genitive of Time on/within*)?”

Then πάντες οἱ ἄλλοι ἔλαφοι οἱ εὐδαίμονες εἶπον:

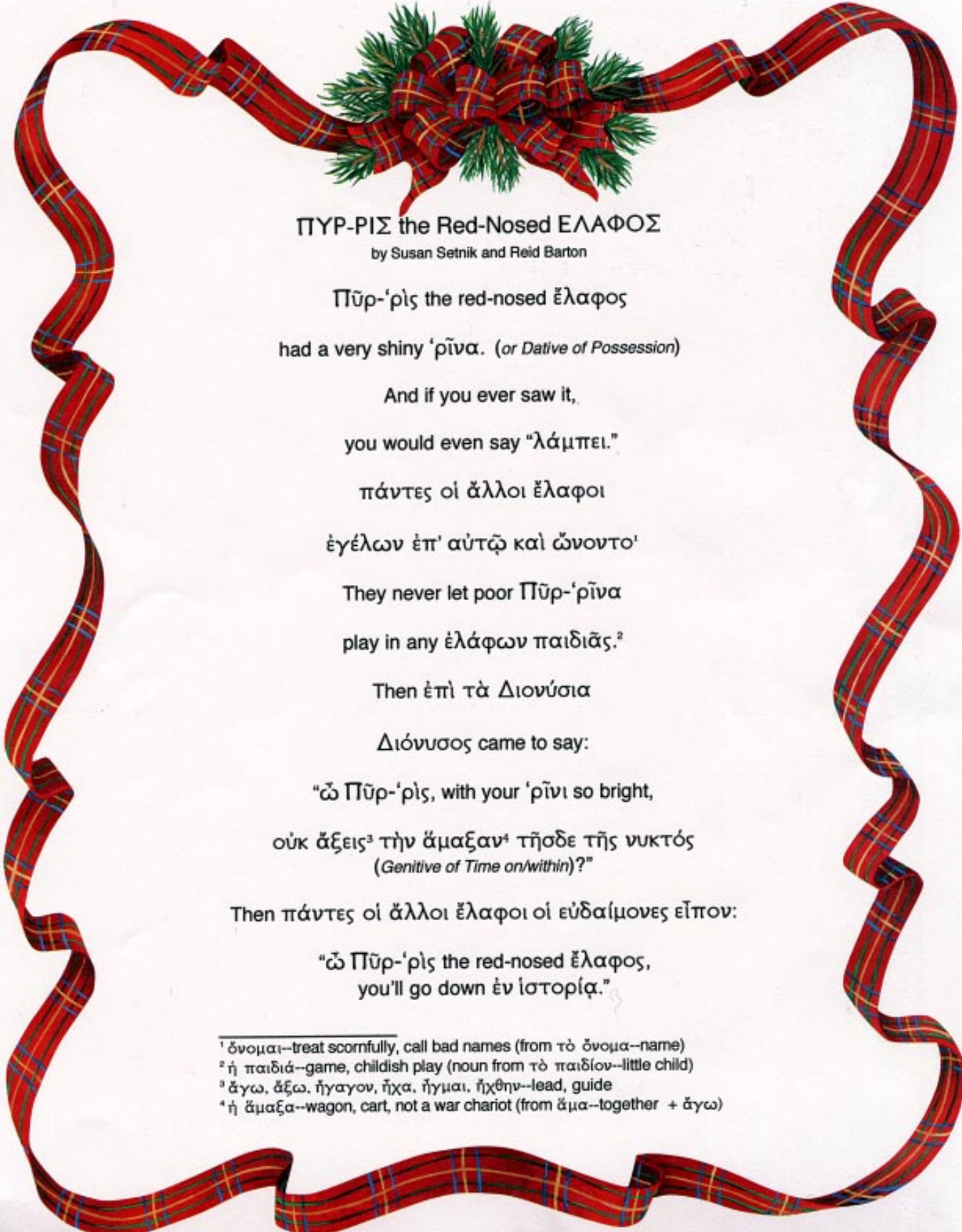
“ὦ Πῦρ-ῖρις the red-nosed ἔλαφος,
you’ll go down ἐν ἱστορίᾳ.”

¹ ὀνομαί--treat scornfully, call bad names (from τὸ ὄνομα--name)

² ἡ παιδιά--game, childish play (noun from τὸ παιδίον--little child)

³ ἄγω, ἄξω, ἡγαγον, ἦχα, ἦγμαι, ἦχθην--lead, guide

⁴ ἡ ἄμαξα--wagon, cart, not a war chariot (from ἄμα--together + ἄγω)



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