The particular value of the verb “εἰσιν” (be-verb) is not related to the movable nu. Although Baumeister adds nu here, he omits it in the following verses: Hymn to Aphrodite 31-32 ἐστιν, ἱ καὶ [...], Hymn to Dionysus 58-59 ἐστιν ἱ σεῖν [...], Hymn to Pan 29-30 ἐστιν, ἱ καὶ [...], Hymn 34. 18-19 ἐστιν ἱ σεῖν’ [...].

The other editors who follow Baumeister do not give any reason why they add it here. We may, therefore, reasonably conclude that the form “εἰσιν” which editors adopted is not appropriate in editions B, and future editors must omit the nu at 148 if they choose the principle of editions B.

Summary

In some editions of the Homeric Hymn to Demeter, the movable nu is added at the end of a verse when the next verse begins with a vowel and it is omitted when the next verse begins with a consonant. However, at verse 148 in almost all of the editions, the nu is added, even though the next verse (149) begins with a consonant: 148-149 φέρετεροι εἰσιν, ἱ πάσα δὲ [...]. I show that there is no reason for accepting εἰσιν here in the editions.

Keywords: Homeric Hymn to Demeter; Movable Nu; Editorial Problems; Epic; Hexameter

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These are the examples of ἐστιν at the end of a verse, and we do not find other examples of εἰσιν at the end of a verse in the Baumeister’s edition. For such an example, see Allen’s editions. Allen (1912) usually adopts the principle of editions B, but he adds the nu at verse 148 like Baumeister. However, he omits it in Iliad V,728-729 ἀντιγόνες εἰσιν ἱ τοῖ δ’ [...] (Thomas William Allen, Homerí Opera, I, Oxford 1920).