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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
HORACE

Horace is a central author in Latin literature. His work spans a wide range of genres, from iambus to satire, and odes to literary epistle, and he is just as much at home writing about love and wine as he is about philosophy and literary criticism. He also became a key literary figure in the regime of the Emperor Augustus. In this volume a superb international cast of contributors presents a stimulating and accessible assessment of the poet, his work, its themes and its reception. This provides the orientation and coverage needed by non-specialists and students, but also suggests fresh and provoking perspectives from which specialists may benefit. Since the last synoptic book on Horace was published half a century ago, there has been a sea-change in perceptions of his work and in the literary analysis of classical literature in general, and this territory is fully charted in this *Companion*.

STEPHEN HARRISON is Professor of Classical Languages and Literature at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Corpus Christi College.

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COMPANION TO  
HORACE

EDITED BY  
STEPHEN HARRISON

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For Robin Nisbet  
sedecim lustris functo  
21 May 2005

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## PREFACE

I would like to thank all the contributors cordially for their hard work and good humour through the long editorial process. Contributors have of course been left free to convey their own scholarly views; there has been no imposed editorial ideological line, and attentive readers will find disagreements between contributors on such matters as translation (e.g. of the phrase *carpe diem*) and on the identity of Horace's addressees (e.g. the Albius of *Odes* 1.33 and *Epistles* 1.4 or the Vergilius of *Odes* 4.12).

I would also like to convey my warm gratitude to Michael Sharp and his team at Cambridge University Press, first for offering me the opportunity to undertake this volume and then for their kindness and patience in the course of its preparation, and to Jo Bramwell for her efficient copy-editing.

It is perhaps unusual for a volume to be dedicated to one of its contributors, but the immense contribution of Robin Nisbet to Horatian studies, the great personal and scholarly debts owed to him by the editor and several of the other contributors, and the happy coincidence of his eightieth birthday with the latter stages of this book's assembly make him its natural dedicatee.

SJH

December 2005