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0521642469 - Traditions and Contexts in the Poetry of Horace  
Edited by Tony Woodman and Denis Feeney  
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## Traditions and contexts in the poetry of Horace

This book explores the whole range of the output of an exceptionally versatile and innovative poet, from the *Epodes* to the literary-critical *Epistles*. Distinguished scholars of diverse background and interests introduce readers to a variety of critical approaches to Horace and to Latin poetry. Close attention is paid throughout to the actual text of Horace, with many of the chapters focusing on the reading of a single poem. These close readings are then situated in a number of different political, philosophical and historical contexts. The book sheds light not only on Horace but on the general problems confronting Latinists in the study of Augustan poetry, and it will be of value to a wide range of upper-level Latin students and scholars.

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## PROLOGUE

In compiling this volume, we sought contributors who were known to be engaged in the field of Horatian scholarship and who, between them, seemed likely to cover most of Horace's *œuvre* and to represent a variety of different approaches. We saw our editorial task as drawing conclusions in an Epilogue, highlighting the common themes of the chapters in order to draw into focus the preoccupations that contemporary Latinists bring to bear on a canonical Latin author.

Inevitably there is a degree of circularity in this procedure, since the personal preferences of individual scholars are generally well known and it is unlikely that, for example, younger scholars in one country will adopt the same approaches as a middle-aged in another. Indeed three papers, familiar from oral performance, were commissioned especially for this volume and hence were known in advance. Nevertheless one cannot make absolute predictions: it was not to be expected that two contributors would exchange topics half-way through the proceedings, and we were surprised that the final submission of another was devoted to an entirely different work of Horace's from that stipulated on the contract.

Not every invitation to contribute to this volume was accepted, and the alacrity with which some scholars accepted was in inverse proportion to the speed with which they produced their papers. Hence there have been repeated delays, for which apologies are due to all concerned. Nevertheless we believe that the resulting volume has been well worth the wait and we hope that it may stand as a fitting complement to *Homage to Horace*, edited by S. J. Harrison (1995).

*April 2001*

D.C.F., A.J.W.



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