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HORACE  
ODES

BOOK III

EDITED BY  
A. J. WOODMAN



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*To the memory of my beloved Dorothy  
and to David and John.  
My family.*

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We must just read and be ready for anything

David West, *Reading Horace*

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## PREFACE

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Horace has been my favourite author for close on sixty years, ever since I first read Book 2 of the *Odes* for A-Level in the Latin class of Ronald Fox, for whose wonderful teaching I remain grateful to this day. Until very recently it never entered my head that I might have the privilege of writing a commentary on a work of Horace, but, once the opportunity of *Odes 3* arose, I found myself more tempted by the prospect than deterred by the responsibility. The odes of Book 3 are particularly challenging even by Horace's own high standards, and, although it is inevitable that a commentary will reflect the interests and idiosyncrasies of the commentator, my principal endeavour throughout has been to try to understand the Latin and logic of each ode and to convey to readers such understanding as I have acquired. The commentary makes no claim to definitiveness (as if such a thing were ever possible in the case of the *Odes*), but, given that the series Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics describes itself as being 'aimed primarily at undergraduate and graduate students', I hope at least to have provided these readers with 'all the guidance needed' for their enjoyment of this exceptional and much loved author.

In the course of writing the commentary I have been even more importunate than usual in seeking advice and information from others, and for various kinds of help (sometimes on repeated occasions) I am most grateful to J. N. Adams, A. Bonnell Freidin, W. W. Briggs, F. Cairns, H. Clements, K. M. Coleman, D. C. Feeney, C. H. George, S. J. Harrison, D. Kovacs, J. E. Lendon, D. S. Levene, R. Maltby, R. G. Mayer, E. A. Meyer, J. D. Morgan, T. Morton, F. Muecke, K. S. Myers, D. P. Nelis, J. Nelis-Clément, J. J. Paterson, A. Petrovic, J. G. F. Powell, J. W. Rich, Z. Stamatopoulou, R. J. Tarrant, T. P. Wiseman, A. T. Zanker, G. Zanker and J. E. G. Zetzel. Much gratitude is owed to the Editors, P. R. Hardie and S. P. Oakley, for their customary comments and advice and especially for endorsing a somewhat flexible word limit (even so, the amount of quoted Greek has had to be reduced to a regrettable minimum). It is a cause of much sadness that I was unable to consult E. Courtney, who would have relished the opportunity of engaging once more with the *Odes* of Horace, the subject of his last ever scholarly paper.

By far my greatest debt is to I. M. Le M. Du Quesnay, who devoted an enormous amount of time and labour to commenting extensively on the whole book, correcting mistakes, questioning assumptions, responding to countless emails, and making suggestions (whose adoption almost always goes shamelessly unacknowledged). There is scarcely a page which has not benefitted from his critical attention, and, on the occasions where

I declined to follow his advice, I have done so with great misgivings; he is certainly not to be held responsible for any remaining errors. Every author should be so fortunate.

It is never an ideal time to consign one's book to one's publisher. There is always more to be said, always other books on the horizon which may prove relevant, disputing one's conclusions or solving problems which one could not solve oneself. But there comes a moment when one has to let go. This is the eighth volume of commentary which I have had the pleasure of being published by Cambridge University Press, where Michael Sharp and Muriel Hall have given me, as always, the great benefit of their helpfulness and expertise. I am extremely grateful to them.

On the one occasion in my teaching career when I had the opportunity of offering Horace's *Odes* as an option for special study, only one undergraduate took up the offer, and I am happy to say that (such being the poet's *callida iunctura*) subsequently she became my wife. We were married for forty-three years.

23 October 2020

A. J. W.

## REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

**Horace's works** are abbreviated as follows: *Satires* (*S.*), *Epodes* (*Epo.*), *Odes* (*C.*), *Carmen Saeculare* (*CS*), *Epistles* (*Epi.*), *Ars Poetica* (*AP*). Commentators on these works are usually referred to by name only (thus e.g. 'Brink on *AP* 99'). References to the *Odes* usually omit the title (thus '1.12.2').

**Greek Lyric, Elegy and Iambic.** Wherever possible I have referred to the Greek lyric poets as edited and translated by D. A. Campbell in the Loeb edition *Greek Lyric* (5 vols., 1982–93). For Pindar I have used the Loeb *Pindar* (2 vols., 1997) by W. H. Race. There are helpful commentaries on selections of Greek lyric poetry by D. A. Campbell (1967), G. O. Hutchinson (2001) and F. Budelmann (2018). There are Loeb editions of Greek elegy and iambic poetry by D. E. Gerber (1999), from which my references are taken; there is a recent commentary on selections from each genre by W. Allan (2019).

**Cross-references.** In the Commentary I use 'Intro.' to refer to the Introduction to the volume, and 'intro.' to refer to the introductory notes to each ode.

## OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

<i>BA</i>	Talbert, R. J. A. (ed.) (2000). <i>Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World</i> . Vols. 1–2 and Maps. Princeton
<i>BCH</i>	Günther, H.-C. (ed.) (2013). <i>Brill's Companion to Horace</i> . Leiden/Boston
<i>BNP</i>	<i>Brill's New Pauly</i> . Vols. 1–15. Leiden/Boston
<i>CAH</i>	Bowman, A. K. et al. (edd.) (1996). <i>Cambridge Ancient History</i> . Vol. 10. 2nd edn. Cambridge
<i>CCC</i>	Du Quesnay, I. M. Le M. and Woodman, A. J. (edd.) (2021). <i>The Cambridge Companion to Catullus</i> . Cambridge
<i>CCGL</i>	Budelmann, F. (ed.) (2009). <i>The Cambridge Companion to Greek Lyric</i> . Cambridge
<i>CCH</i>	Harrison, S. (ed.) (2007). <i>The Cambridge Companion to Horace</i> . Cambridge
<i>CH</i>	Davis, G. (ed.) (2010). <i>A Companion to Horace</i> . Chichester
<i>CLE</i>	Buecheler, F. and Lommatsch, E. (1895–1926). <i>Carmina Latina Epigraphica</i> . Vols. 1–3. Leipzig

- DBC* Todd, R. B. (ed.) (2004). *The Dictionary of British Classicists*. Vols. 1–3. Bristol
- EJ* Ehrenberg, V. and Jones, A. H. M. (1955). *Documents Illustrating the Reigns of Augustus and Tiberius*. 2nd edn. Oxford
- EO* Mariotti, S. (ed.) (1996–98). *Enciclopedia oraziana*. Vols. 1–3. Rome
- FLP* Courtney, E. (2003). *The Fragmentary Latin Poets*. Rev. edn. Oxford
- FRH* Cornell, T. J. (ed.) (2013). *The Fragments of the Roman Historians*. Vols. 1–3. Oxford
- GL* Keil, H. (1855–80). *Grammatici Latini*. Vols. 1–8. Leipzig
- G&L* Gildersleeve, B. L. and Lodge, G. (1992). *Latin Grammar*. Repr. Walton-on-Thames
- HH* Harrison, S. J. (ed.) (1995). *Homage to Horace*. Oxford
- ILS* *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*
- Inscr. Ital.* Degrassi, A. (ed.) (1947). *Inscriptiones Italiae*. Vol. 13. Rome
- LH* Woodman, A. J. (2015). *Lost Histories: Selected Fragments of Roman Historical Writers*. *Histos* Suppl. 2. Newcastle upon Tyne
- LIMC* *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*
- MRR* Broughton, T. R. S. (1951–86). *The Magistrates of the Roman Republic*. Vols. 1–3. New York/Atlanta
- NA* Navarro Antolín, F. (1996). *Lygdamus. Corpus Tibullianum III.1–6*. Leiden/New York/Cologne
- N–H* Nisbet, R. G. M. and Hubbard, M. (1970, 1978). *A Commentary on Horace: Odes Book I and Odes Book II*. Oxford
- NLS* Woodcock, E. C. (1959). *A New Latin Syntax*. London
- N–R* Nisbet, R. G. M. and Rudd, N. (2004). *A Commentary on Horace: Odes Book III*. Oxford [‘Nisbet’ refers to comments attributable to him alone.]
- OCD* *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. 4th edn. Oxford
- OLD* *Oxford Latin Dictionary*
- OLS* Pinkster, H. (2015). *The Oxford Latin Syntax*. Vol. 1. Oxford
- OR* Lowrie, M. (ed.) (2009). *Oxford Readings in Classical Studies. Horace: Odes and Epodes*. Oxford
- ORF* Malcovati, H. (1953). *Oratorum Romanorum Fragmenta*. Vol. 1. Turin

## REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

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<i>PH</i>	Woodman, A. J. (2012). <i>From Poetry to History: Selected Papers</i> . Oxford
<i>RG</i>	<i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i>
<i>RIC</i>	Mattingly, H. et al. (1923–67). <i>Roman Imperial Coinage</i> . London [Vol. 1 rev. by C. H. V. Sutherland and R. A. G. Carson (1984)]
<i>SB</i>	Shackleton Bailey, D. R.
<i>TC</i>	Woodman, A. J. and Feeney, D. (edd.) (2002). <i>Traditions and Contexts in the Poetry of Horace</i> . Cambridge
<i>TLL</i>	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Latinae</i>
<i>W.</i>	Woodman, A. J.
<i>W–M</i>	Woodman, A. J. and Martin, R. H. (1996). <i>The Annals of Tacitus: Book 3</i> . Cambridge

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