

Virgilius Seduliōrum: The Influence of Caelius Sedulius and Sedulius Scottus in adapting Virgil for a Christian Europe

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Aeneid

Arma virumque canō, Trōiae quī prīmus ab ōrīs
Ītaliā, fātō profugus, Lāvīniaque vēnit
lītora, multum ille et terrīs iactātus et altō
vī superum saevae memorem lūnōnis ob īram;
multa quoque et bellō passūs, dum conderet
urbem,
inferretque deōs Latiō, genus unde Latīnum,
Albānīque patrēs, atque altae moenia Rōmae.

Mūsa, mihī causās memorā, quō nūmine laesō,
quidve dolēns, rēgīna deum tot volvere cāsūs
īnsīgnem pietāte virum, tot adīre
labōrēs
impulerit. Tantaene animīs caelestibus īrae?

Il.1-11

Carmen Paschale

Paschales quicumque dapes conviva requiris,
Dignatus nostris accubitare toris,
Pone supercilium si te cognoscis amicum
Nec quaeras opus hic codicis artificis,
Sed modicae contentus adi sollemnia mensae
plusque libens animo quam satiare cibo
Aut si magnarum caperis dulcedine rerum
Divitiasque magis deliciosus amas,
Nobilium nitidis doctorum vescere cenis
{...}
At nos exiguum de paupere carpsimus horot,
Rubra quod appositum testa ministrat holus
(Il.1-9, 15-16)

Sedulius

- Cum sua gentiles studeant figment poetae
Grandisonis pompare modis, tragicoque boatu
Ridiculove Geta seu qualibet arte canendi
Saeva nefandarum renovent contagia rerum (17-20)
- Plurima Niliacis tradant mdacia biblis,
Cur ego, Daviticis assuetus cantibus odas
Chordarum resonare decem sanctoque verenter,
Stare choro et placidis caelestia psallare verbis,
Clara salutiferi taceam miracula Christi,
Cum possim manifesta loqui, dominumque tonantem (1.22-7).

Sedulius

- Pande salutarem paucos quae ducit in urbem/ Angusto mihi calle viam
verbique lucernam/ Da pedibus lucere meis, ut semita vitase/ Ad caulas me
ruris agat... (1.79-82)
- Ex quibus audaci pestringere pauca relatu/ Vix animis committo meis,
silvamque patentem/ Ingrediens aliquos nitor contingere ramos. (1.96-8)
- Interea dum ritr viam sermone levamus,/ Spesque fidesque meum
comitatur in ardua gressum,/ Blandius ad summam tandem pervenimus
arcem. (1.334-6)
- lam satis humanis erroribus addita monstra/ Risimus aut tales potius
deflevimus acuts. (1.280-1),
- properemus in urbem/ Libertatis opem (1.283-4)
- Per digesta prius veteris miracula legis/ Rettulimus (1.291-2).

Echoes

Sedulius

- “At nos exiguum de pauper carpsimus horto” (1.15)
- 1.35 “...Haec est via namque salutis.”
- 1.46 “Neglectisque rosis saliuncam sumitis agri?”
- “sed amoena virecta/ Florentum semper nemorum sedesque beatas/ per lattices intrate pio” (1.53-5)

Vergil

- Eclogue 7.34 “custos es pauperis horto”
- Aeneid 6.96 “qua tua te Fortuna sinet. via prima salutis”;
- Eclogue 5.17 “puniceis humilis quantum saliunca rosetis”
- Aeneid 6.638-9 “devenere locos laetos et amoena virecta/ fortunatorum nemorum sedesque beatas.”

Sedulius

- “Grandisonis pompare modis, tragicoque boatu/ Ridiculove Geta seu qualibet arte canendi” (1.18-19).
- “Saeva nefandarum renovent contagia rerum/ Et scelerum monumenta canant, rituque magistro/ Plurima Niliacis tradant mendacia biblis,” (1.20-22).
- “Hace firmos ad dona gradys paschalia ducit./ Hace mihi carmen erit. Mentis huc vertite cuncti.” (1.36-37)

Consolatio Philosophiae

- “Carmina qui quondam studio florente peregi,/ flebilis heu maestos cogor inire modos./ Ecce mihi lacerae dictant scribenda Camenae/ et ueris elegi fletibus ora rigant./ Has saltem nullus potuit peruincere terror,/ ne nostrum comites prosequerentur iter.” (M.1-6)
- “Quae ubi poeticas Musas uidit nostro assistentes toro fletibusque meis uerba dictantes, commota paulisper ac toruis inflammata luminibus: 8 Quis, inquit, has scenicas meretriculas ad hunc aegrum permisit accedere, quae dolores eius non modo nullis remediis fouerent, uerum dulcibus insuper alerent uenenis? 9 Hae sunt enim quae infructuosis affectuum spinis uberem fructibus rationis segetem necant hominumque mentes assuefaciunt morbo, non liberant. 10 At si quem profanum, uti uulgo solitum uobis, blanditiae uestrae detraherent, minus moleste ferendum putarem -- nihil quippe in eo nostrae operae laederentur -- hunc uero Eleaticis atque Academicis studiis innutritum?” (P.1.7-10)

The Divine Comedy (transl. Mandelbaum)

- “And are you then that Virgil, you the fountain/that freely pours so rich a stream of speech?”/I answered him with shame upon my brow./“O light and honor of all other poets,/may my long study and the intense love/that made me search your volume serve me now./You are my master and my author, you—/the only one from whom my writing drew/the noble style for which I have been honored./You see the beast that made me turn aside;/help me, o famous sage, to stand against her,/for she has made my blood and pulses shudder,”/“It is another path that you must take,”/he answered when he saw my tearfulness,/“if you would leave this savage wilderness;” (Inferno Canto 1. 79-93).

Paradise Lost

Sing Heav'nly Muse, that on the secret top
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire
That Shepherd, who first taught the chosen Seed,
In the Beginning how the Heav'ns and Earth
Rose out of Chaos: Or if Sion Hill
Delight thee more, and Siloa's Brook that flow'd
Fast by the Oracle of God; I thence
Invoke thy aid to my adventrous Song, (ll.6-13)
That to the highth of this great Argument/I may assert Eternal
Providence,/And justifie the wayes of God to men. (24-6)

“De Rosae Liliique Certamine”

Forma pudicitiae nostris rosa gliscat in hortis,
Splendida Phoebeo uos, Lilia, crescite uultu;
Tu, rosa, martyribus rutilam das stemmate palmam;
Lilia, uirgineas turbas decorate stolatas. (ll.39-42)

Texts

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