Friends by Force: Horace, the Epistolary Genre, and Patron-Client Relationships in *Epistle 1.7*

Hor. *Epist.* 1.7.1-9

Quinque dies tibi pollicitus me rure futurum

Sextilem totum mendax desideror. atqui

si me vivere vis sanum recteque valentem,

quam mihi das aegro, dabis aegrotare timenti

Maecenas, veniam, dum ficus prima calorque

dissignatorem decorat lictoribus atris,

dum pueris omnis pater et matercula pallet

officiosaque sedulitas et opella forensis

adducit febris et testamenta resignat.

I promised you I’d spend a week in the country.

I lied. I’ve been away all August. But if you

want me strong and healthy, give me now, Maecenas,

the same consideration you give me when I’m sick,

for in Rome I’d be sick. The heat there and the early figs

make the undertaker, with his black-robed crew, a wealthy man.

Mothers and fathers turn pale fearing for their children,

and social obligations joined with petty public tasks cause fevers to rise and wills to be unsealed and read.  
 Translation: Fuchs

Hor. *Epist.* 1.7.98

metiri se quemque suo modulo ac pede verum est.It is right for each person to measure himself by his own standard and measure.  
 Translation mine

Hor. *Sat*.1.6.85-87

nec timuit, sibi ne vitio quis verteret, olim

si praeco parvas aut, ut fuit ipse, coactor

mercedes sequerer

Nor did he fear that anyone would find fault with him if one day I were to pursue modest salaries as an auctioneer or an auction-broker, as he was….  
 Translation mine

Hor. *Epist.* 1.7.77-82

inpositus mannis arvum caelumque Sabinum

non cessat laudare. videt ridetque Philippus,

et sibi dum requiem, dum risus undique quaerit

dum septem donat sestertia, mutua septem

promittit, persuadet uti mercetur agellum.

mercatur.Placed in [the carriage drawn by] ponies, [Mena] does not cease

praising the Sabine land and sky. Philippus sees and laughs,

and seeking entertainment and laughter

giving Mena 7000 sesterces, promising 7000 as a loan,

persuades him that he should buy a little farm.

He buys it.   
 Translation mine

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