**The Well-Worn Road: Metapoetics from Ennius to Ovid**

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1. Plowing and Metapoetic Furrows
   1. Isidore *Origines*. 6.14.7

Verses (*versus*) are commonly so called because the ancients used to write in the same way as the earth is plowed. For they first led the stylus from left to right, then they turned back (*convertebantur*) from below, and then back towards (*versus*) the right; even today rustics call these things [i.e., furrows] *versus*.

* 1. Titinius, *com*. 160

velim ego osse arare campum cereum

* 1. Quinctius Atta, *com*. 13

vertamus vomerem | in cera mucroneque aremus osseo

* 1. Plowing = writing (dead metaphor)

*arare* – Mart. 4.86.11 (*OLD* 3b)

*exarare* – Cic. *Att*. 12.1.1, 16.6.4, Ov. *Pont*. 3.2.90, Phaed. 3.pr.29, Quint *Inst.* 9.4.90, Plin. *Ep*. 7.4.5, Suet. *Otho* 1.2

*perarare* – Ov. *Am*. 1.11.7, *Ars* 3.485, 1.455; *Met*. 9.564 (*OLD* b)

* 1. Vergil *Georgics* 4.144 (Kronenberg 2009: 166–176)

Ille etiam seras in versum distulit ulmos

1. Metapoetic Feet (*pes*/πούς). (Hinds 1985, 1987, Barchiesi 1994, Wyke 1989, Morgan 1999, Keith 1999, Heyworth 2001, Ferris 2009, Henkel 2014)
   1. Ennius, *Annales* fr. 1. Sk. (contrast fr. 206-207 of the Saturnian; Hinds 1998: 56-57)

Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum

* 1. Catullus 14.21-23 (Biblio: see Ferris 377 n. 8)

vos hinc interea valete abite  
illuc, unde malum pedem attulistis  
saecli incommode, pessimi poetae.

* 1. Catullus 31.9-10 (Morgan 1999: 102-104)

labore fessi venimus larem ad nostrum  
desideratoque acquiescimus lecto*.*

* 1. Catullus 71 (Ferriss 2009)

Si cui iure bono sacer alarum obstitit hircus,  
 aut si quem merito tarda podagra secat,  
aemulus iste tuus, qui vestrum exercet amorem,  
 mirifice est a te nactus utrumque malum.  
nam quotiens futuit, totiens ulciscitur ambos:  
 illam affligit odore, ipse perit podagra.

* 1. Lucretius *DRN*  1.926–27 = 4.1–2

Avia Pieridum peragro loca nullius ante  
trita solo. . . .

* 1. Lucretius *DRN* 5.1399–1402

tum caput atque umeros plexis redimire coronis  
floribus et foliis lascivia laeta monebat,  
atque extra numerum procedere membra moventes  
duriter et duro terram pede pellere matrem. . .

* 1. Cicero, *Prognostica* fr. 4 Soubiran

mollipedes boves spectantes lumina caeli  
naribus humiferum duxere ex aere succum

1. Metapoetic Sources
   1. Lucretius *DRN* 3.2–6 < *Aetia* 3 (cf. Aristaenet. 1.10.9ff; Harder ad Callim. *Aet*. fr. 68–70)

te sequor, o Graiae gentis decus, inque tuis nunc  
ficta pedum pono pressis *vestigia* signis,  
non ita certandi cupidus quam propter amorem   
quod te imitari aveo. . .

* 1. Meleager’s *Garland* 🡪 Horace *Odes* 1.1.35–36 (cf. Leigh 2010)

quod si me lyricis vatibus inseres,  
sublimi feriam sidera vertice.

* 1. Preface to Theocritus: Artemidorus *AP* 9.25

The Bucolic Muses were once scattered, but now all together  
 within one fold, within one flock.  
Βουκολικαὶ Μοῖσαι σποράδες ποκά, νῦν δ' ἅμα πᾶσαι  
 ἐντὶ μιᾶς μάνδρας, ἐντὶ μιᾶς ἀγέλας.

* 1. Preface to Aratus?: Callimachus *Epigram* 27 Pf.

The song is Hesiod’s in theme and style, but it isn’t  
 Hesiod to the last drop: No the man of Soloi  
has skimmed the sweetness and left the rest. Hail,  
 delicate (λεπταί) discourses, earnest vigil (σύμβολον ἀγρυπνίης) of Aratus. (trans. Nisetich)

* 1. Preface to Aratus?: Leonidas *AP* 9.25

This is the book of learned Aratus, whose subtle mind (λεπτῇ φροντίδι) explored the long-lived stars, both the fixed stars and the planets with which the bright revolving heaven is set. Let us praise him for the great task at which he labored (καμὼν ἔργον μέγα); let us count him second to Zeus, in that he made the stars brighter. (adapted from Paton)

* 1. Metapoetic Vigil and Labor in Roman poetry (Thomas 1979: 195–205, Henkel 2011)
     1. *vigiliae*: Lucr. 5.1379 ff, Cat. 50, Hor. *Serm*. 2.1.7, *Ars* 269, Prop. 1.1.33, 1.9.28, 1.10.1–10, 2.3.7, 3.15.2, Ov. *Am*. 1.6.7–8 (*excubiae*), [Verg.] *Cir*. 46, Juv. 7.27, etc.
     2. *labor*: Cic. *De leg*. 1.8, Cat. 1.7, 14.11, 50.14, 116.5, Verg. *Ecl*. 10.1, *Geo*. 2.39, 4.116, Hor. *Serm*. 1.10.72–74, *Epist*. 2.1.224–25, *Ars* 241, 291, Tib. 1.1.3, Prop. 1.1.9, Ov. *Am*. 3.1.68, [Verg.] *Cir*. 99, etc.
  2. Cinna fr. 11

haec tibi Arateis multum vigilata lucernis  
 carmina, quis ignes novimus aerios,  
levis in aridulo maluae descripta libello  
 Prusiaca vexi munera navicula.

* 1. Lucr. *DRN* 1.40–142 (Henkel 2011: 181–82; cf. *Geo*. 1.291–296)

sed tua me virtus tamen et sperata voluptas  
suavis amicitiae quemvis efferre laborem  
suadet, et inducit noctes vigilare serenas. . .

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