

Columella Res Rustica 10 and Nicander's Georgica

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Kitchener, ON
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p. 1

- 1.) Invitent croceis halantes floribus horti
et custos furum atque avium cum falce saligna
Hellespontiaci servet tutela Priapi.

(Verg. *G.* 4. 109-111)

Let gardens, fragrant with saffron flowers, invite them,
and let the guardian against thieves and birds, the care of Priapus
of the Hellespont, with his willow pruning hook, protect it.

- 2.) Atque equidem, extremo ni iam sub fine laborum
vela traham et terris festinem advertere proram,
forsitan et, pinguis hortos quae cura colendi
ornaret, canerem biferique rosaria Paesti,
quoque modo potis gauderent intiba rivis
et virides apio ripae, tortusque per herbam
cresceret in ventrem cucumis; nec sera comantem
narcissum aut flexi tacuissem vimen acanthi
pallentisque hederas et amantis litora myrtos.

(Verg. *G.* 4. 116-124)

And, indeed, if I were not now drawing my sails towards
the end of my labors and hastening to turn my prow towards land,
perhaps I might also sing about what care of cultivation adorns
rich gardens and the rosebed of twice-bearing Paestum,
and how the endive rejoices in the drink-giving streams
and the banks are green with celery, and how the cucumber, coiling through the grass,
grew into a belly; nor would I have been silent about the narcissus, blooming late,
or the stem of the curved acanthus and the pale ivy and the myrtle loving the shore.

- 3.) ... meminī me ...

...
Corycium vidisse senem, cui pauca relictī
iugera ruris erant, nec fertilis illa iuvenicis
nec pecori opportuna seges nec commoda Baccho:
hic rarum tamen in dumis olus albaque circum
lilia verbenasque premens vescu[m]que papaver
regum aequabat opes animis, seraque revertens
nocte domum dapibus mensas onerabat inemptis.

(Verg. *G.* 4. 125, 127-133)

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... I remember ...

...

that I saw an old Corycian man, who had a few
acres of abandoned countryside; that field was not good for plowing with oxen
nor was it suitable for herds, nor was it fit for vines;
but in planting herbs here and there among the thornbushes,
and white lilies around about, and verbena, and the meager poppy,
in his spirits he would equal the wealth of kings, and returning home
late at night he would load his table with a banquet unbought.

- 4.) Verum haec ipse equidem **spatiis exclusus iniquis**
praetereo atque **aliis post me memoranda relinquo.**

(Verg. *G.* 4. 147-148)

But, indeed, prevented by insufficient space, these things
I pass over and leave behind after me to be recounted by others.

- 5.) ut poeticis numeris explerem georgici carminis omissas partes, quas tamen
et ipse Vergilius significaverat **posteris se memorandas relinquere.**

(Col 10. Pr. 3)

That I may complete in poetic measures the omitted portions of the *Georgics*,
which, nevertheless, Vergil himself had indicated that he was 'leaving behind to
posterity to recount'.

- 6.) Hortorum quoque te cultus, Silvine, docebo
atque ea, quae quondam **spatiis exclusus iniquis,**
cum caneret laetas segetes et munera Bacchi
et te, magna Pales, necnon caelestia mella,
Vergilius nobis **post se memoranda reliquit.**

(Col. 10. 1-5)

I shall also tell you, Silvinus, about the cultivation of gardens,
And those things which, once, "prevented by insufficient space,"
When he sang about the fruitful crops and the gifts of Bacchus,
And you, great Pales, and also heavenly honey,
Vergil 'left behind after him to be recounted' by me.'

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- 7.) quid? Nicandrum frustra secuti Macer atque Vergilius?
(Quint. Inst. Or. 10. 1. 56)

What? Did Macer and Virgil follow Nicander in vain?

- 8.) Et vos agrestes, duro qui pollice molles
demetitis flores, cano iam vimine textum
sirpiculum ferrugineis cumulate hyacinthis.
Iam rosa distendat contorti stamina iunci,
pressaque flammeola rumpatur fiscina caltha,
mercibus ut vernis dives Vertumnus abundet,
et titubante gradu multo madefactus Iaccho
aere sinus gerulus plenos gravis urbe reportet.
(Col. 10. 303-310)

And you, rustics, who with a hardened thumb pluck the yielding
flowers, now heap up with iron-red irises
a rush-basket, woven with osiers.
Now let the rose stretch the fibers of twisted rush,
and the little basket burst with the flame-colored marigold,
so that rich Vertumnus may abound in the spring harvest,
and, soaked with much wine, with faltering step,
the bearer, laden, may bring back from the city his pockets full of bronze.

- 9.) Νίκανδρος ἐν δευτέρῳ Γεωργικῶν καταλέγων καὶ αὐτὸς στεφανωτικὰ ἄνθη καὶ
περὶ Ἰωνιάδων Νυμφῶν καὶ περὶ ῥόδων τάδε λέγει.
(Ath. xv. 683A-684F)

Nicander in the second book of his *Georgica*, likewise enumerating flowers which
are suitable for wreaths, speaks of the Ioniad Nymphs and of roses as follows.
(Trans. Gow & Scholfield)

- 10.) Verum iam puro discrimine pectita tellus
deposito squalor nitens sua semina poscet,
pingite tunc varios, terrestria sidera, flores,
candida leucoia, et flaventia lumina calthae,
narcissique comas, et hianti saeva leonis
ora feri, calathisque virentia lilia canis,
nec non vel niveos vel caeruleos hyacinthos.
Tum quae pallet humi, quae frondens purpurat auro,
ponatur viola, et nimium rosa plena pudoris.
Nunc medica panacem lacrima, succoque salubri
glaucea, et profugos vinctura papavera somnos
spargite.
(Col. 10. 94-105)

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10. cont.) But when the earth, combed with clear intervals,
shining now that disorder has been banished, demands its seeds,
then plant flowers of different sorts, the stars of the earth:
glistening white violets and the yellow buds of the marigold,
and petals of narcissus and the savage mouths of the gaping
wild lion and lilies, blooming with white calices,
and also hyacinths, whether snowy-white or dark.
Let the violet be planted, which lies so pale on the ground, and which,
blooming, mixes purple with gold; and the rose, too full of modesty.
Now sow *panaces* with its medicinal nectar, and celandine
with its healing juice, and the poppy, which will bind fleeting
slumber.

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