

Mapping Friendship: Horace *Sermones* 1.5

I. Hor. S.1.5.86-90

quattuor hinc rapimur viginti et milia raedis,
mansuri oppidulo, quod versu dicere non est,
signis perfacile est: venit vilissima rerum
hic aqua, sed panis longe pulcherrimus, ultra
callidus ut soleat umeris portare viator.

From this place we take twenty-four miles with carriages,
we ate at the small town, which is not possible to say in verse,
it is very easy to tell by signs: here water is on sale as the cheapest of things,
but the bread is the most beautiful by far,
as the very skillful traveller is accustomed to carrying on his shoulders.

II. Gowers 2012: Candidates for the town

- 1) Equus Tuticus (“getting there would involve going backwards”)
- 2) A(u)sculum (“this name would scan with syncopation or elision”)
- 3) Herdōneae (“could have been named in the singular”)
- 4) Venusia

III. Lucilius, fr. 252-53 W

seruorum est festus dies hic
quem plane hexametro uersu non dicere possis

this day is the festival of slaves
which you cannot completely say in hexameter

IV. Hor. S.1.5.7-9

hic ego propter aquam, quod erat deterrima, uentri
indico bellum, cenantes haud animo aequo
exspectans comites.

Here I, due to the water, because it was very bad,
declare war to my belly, waiting for companions dining
with hardly equal spirit.

V. Ring-Composition of Hor. S.1.5

- A. Aricia accepted Horace and his Greek companion (1-3).
- B. On Via Appia Horace travels slowly and watches other fast travellers passing by (3-7).
- C. At Forum Appi, Horace has diarrhoea because of water and watches others eating (7-9).
- D. In Pontine marshes Horace listens to others singing about an *amica* (9-23).
- E. At the temple of Feronia Horace changes from travelling in boat to by foot (24).
- F. At Anxur, Maecenas and Cocceius arrive at Anxur where the rocks shine (25-33).
- G. At Fundi, Horace and his companions laugh at Aufidius Luscus (34-36).
- H. Vergil arrives and Horace interacts with him (37-49).
- G'. At Caudi, Horace and his companions laugh at the duel (50-70)
- F'. At Beneventum, a reception party turns into a havoc by a kitchen fire (71-76).
- E'. After Beneventum Horace changes from Via Appia to another road (77-79).
- D'. At Villa Trivici Horace has a wet dream after waiting for a girl (79-85).
- C'. At the mysterious town water is cheap and bread is good (86-90).
- B'. Horace quickly passes over a few towns (91-100).
- A'. At Gnatia Horace dismisses the Jewish beliefs and indicates he is continuing to Brundisium (100-104).

VI. Hor. S.1.6.45-46

nunc ad me redeo libertino patre natum,
quem rodunt omnes libertino patre natum

Now I turn back to myself, a son born from a freedman father
whom all bite as a son born from a freedman father

VII. Map of Via Appia and Via Minucia



(Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Based on a map from "Historical Atlas" by William R. Shepherd, New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1923 now in Public Domain.)

VIII. Hor. S.1.5.94-95

inde Rubos fessi pervenimus, utpote longum
carpentis iter et factum corruptius imbri

From that place we arrived in Rubi, tired,
treading upon a road long and made worse by rain.

IX. Hor. S.1.5.25-33

milia tum pransi tria repimus atque subimus
inpositum saxis late candentibus Anxur.
huc venturus erat Maecenas optimus atque
Cocceius, missi magnis de rebus uterque
legati, aversos soliti componere amicos.
hic oculis ego nigra meis collyria lippus
inlinere. interea Maecenas advenit atque
Cocceius Capitoque simul Fonteius, ad unguem
factus homo, Antoni, non ut magis alter, amicus.

Then, having had lunch, we took three miles and came under
Anxur, placed upon broadly shining rocks.
Hither Maecenas the best
and Cocceius were going to come, both envoys sent for great matters,
accustomed to putting estranged friends together.
Here I, bleary, put black paste on my eyes.
Meanwhile Maecenas arrived and
Cocceius, Captio and together with Fonteius,
a friend of Antony, a man made to the nail, so much so that no other one is better.

X. Hor. S.1.5.71-76

tendimus hinc recta Beneventum, ubi sedulus hospes
paene macros arsit dum turdos versat in igni.
nam vaga per veterem dilapso flamma culinam
Volcano summum properabat lambere tectum.
convivas avidos cenam servosque timentis
tum rapere atque omnis restinguere velle videres.

From here we go straight to Beneventum, where a sedulous host
almost burned to death when he roasted the skinny thrushes in fire.
For vagrant fire, through the old kitchen
with the Vulcan having fallen down, was hastening to lick the highest roof.
You would see avid diners and fearing slaves snatch dinner
and all with to extinguish it.

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