114th CAMWS Meeting, Albuquerque, NM  
Sixth Paper Session, Section A  
April 13, 2018  
10:00–11:45 a.m. mskinner@u.arizona.edu

***Lesbia as Procuress in Horace’s* Epode *12***

Marilyn B. Skinner  
University of Arizona

1. *Epode* 12:

Quid tibi vis, mulier nigris dignissima barris?  
      munera quid mihi quidve tabellas  
mittis nec firmo iuveni neque naris obesae?  
      namque sagacius unus odoror,  
polypus an gravis hirsutis cubet **hircus** in **alis** 5  
      quam canis acer ubi lateat sus.  
qui sudor vietis et quam malus undique membris  
      crescit odor, cum pene soluto  
indomitam properat rabiem sedare, neque illi  
      iam manet umida creta colorque 10  
stercore fucatus crocodili iamque subando  
      tenta cub**ilia** tectaque **rumpit**.  
vel mea cum saevis agitat fastidia verbis:  
      'Inachia **langues** minus ac me;  
Inachiam ter nocte potes, mihi semper ad unum 15  
      mollis opus. pereat male quae te  
Lesbia quaerenti taurum **monstravit** inertem.  
      cum mihi Cous adesset Amyntas,  
cuius in indomito constantior inguine nervUs  
      quam nova collibus arbor inhaeret. 20  
muricibus Tyriis iteratae vellera lanae  
      cui properabantur? tibi nempe,  
ne foret aequalis inter conviva, magis quem  
      **diligeret** **mulier** sua **quam te**.   
o ego non felix, quam tu fugis, ut pavet acris 25  
      agna lupos capreaeque leones!'

2. Propertius 1.3.34–40:

sic ait in molli fixa toro cubitum:  
'tandem te nostro referens iniuria lecto 35  
    alterius clausis expulit e foribus?  
namque ubi longa meae consumpsti tempora noctis,  
    **languidus** exactis, ei mihi, sideribus?  
o utinam talis perducas, improbe, noctes,  
    me miseram qualis semper habere iubes!... 40

Propped by her elbow on the soft couch, she spoke thus: “Bringing you back, has some injury to our bed driven you at last from the closed doors of another? For where have you spent the long hours of my night, limp, alas, as the stars are waning? Oh, I wish you would pass such nights, shameless one, as you always bid unhappy me to have!...”

3. *Epode* 11.5–6: *hic tertius December, ex quo destiti /Inachia furere*, “this third December from when I ceased to rave over Inachia”

4. Catul. 69.5–6:

*tibi fertur / valle sub* ***alarum*** *trux habitare caper*, “a harsh goat is said to dwell under the hollow of your armpits”

Catul. 71.1:

*sacer alarum* ***hircus***, “the accursed goat of the armpits”

5. Catul. 11.19–20:

*nullum amans vere, sed identidem omnium /* ***ilia rumpens***, “loving none truly, but again and again breaking the loins of all”

6. Catul. 78.6:

*qui patruus patrui* ***monstret*** *adulterium*, “an uncle who teaches an uncle adultery”

7. Catul. 70.1:

***mulier*** *mea*, “my woman”

Catul. 72.3:

***dilexi…te***, “I loved you”

Catul. 87.1–2:

*nulla potest* ***mulier*** *tantum se dicere amatam /…****quantum***, “no woman is able to say she was loved so much as…”

**Works Cited:**

Barchiesi, A. 2001. “Horace and *Iambos*: The Poet as Literary Historian.” In Cavarzere, A., Aloni, A., and Barchiesi, A., eds. 2001. *Iambic Ideas: Essays on a Poetic Tradition from Archaic Greece to the Late Roman Empire*, Lanham and Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield. 141–64.

Bather, P., and Stocks, C. 2016. “Introduction.” In Bather and Stocks, eds., 1–30.

Bather, P., and Stocks, C., eds. 2016. *Horace’s* Epodes*: Contexts, Intertexts, and Reception*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Damer, E. Z. 2016. “Iambic Metapoetics in Horace, *Epodes* 8 and 12.” *Helios* 43.1: 55–85.

Gowers, E. 2016. “Girls Will Be Boys and Boys Will Be Girls, Or: What Is the Gender of Horace’s *Epodes*?” In Bather and Stocks, eds., 103–30.

Heslin, P. 2011. “Metapoetic Pseudonyms in Horace, Propertius and Ovid.” *JRS* 101: 51–72.