

Porphyriion's Instructions on Oral Reading of Horace's Poetry

Pomponius Porphyriion, a Third Century A.D. North African *grammaticus*, is known to us through his *Commentum in Horatium Flaccum*. This work is a commentary, apparently designed for pedagogical purposes, on all of the poems of Horace, and, not unlike the commentaries of Donatus and Servius, it contains information on historical, syntactic, etymological, cultural, and other features of Horace's writings. Porphyriion's commentary is particularly interesting for the fact that he is dealing with a North African audience and apparently feels compelled to establish his credentials by, among other things, demonstrating his knowledge of history and contemporary Roman architecture and also by supplying a great deal of information to students on pronunciation and oral reading. It is his instructions on pronunciation and oral reading that will be considered here.

First, it must be noted that Porphyriion's *Commentum* appears to be organized programmatically, and his arrangement actually demonstrates how he used Horace's poems for instructional purposes. For example, the comments on the *Epodes* and *Odes I-III* contain a great deal of grammatical commentary, those on *Odes IV* mainly deal with historical information, while in the *Epodes* and *Satires I* there are more explanations of word order than in the other works. On the other hand, in *Satires II* and *Epistles I-II*, there are fewer remarks explaining language, but there is a greater emphasis on rhetorical usage and pronunciation, as well as comments on the proper emphasis and tone to be used when reading specific lines aloud. All of this indicates that Porphyriion used some of Horace's poems primarily for oral training and only secondarily for grammar training.

In this presentation, there will be an analysis of Porphyriion's comments on pronunciation and reading in order to show how a North African *grammaticus* directed his students in correctly reciting Horace's Latin.