

FORMS OF COMPLIMENT: A REAPPRAISAL OF TIBULLUS 1.7

Hunc cecinere diem Parcae, fatalia nentes
stamina, non ulli dissoluenda deo:
hunc fore, Aquitanas posset qui fundere gentes,
quem tremeret forti milite uictus Atur.
euenero: nouos pubes Romana triumphos 5
uidit et euinctos bracchia capta duces;
at te uictrices lauros, Messalla, gerentem
portabat nitidis currus eburnus equis.
non sine me est tibi partus honos: Tarbella Pyrene
testis et Oceani litora Santonici, 10
testis Arar Rhodanusque celer magnusque Garunna,
Carnutis et flauis caerulea lympha Liger.
an te, Cydne, canam, tacitis qui leniter undis
caeruleus placidis per uada serpis aquis?
quantus et aetherio contingens uertice nubes 15
frigidus intonsos Taurus alat Cilicas?
quid referam ut uolitet crebras intacta per urbes
alba Palaestino sancta columba Syro?
utque maris uastum prospectet turribus aequor
prima ratem uentis credere docta Tyros? 20
qualis et, arentes cum findit Sirius agros,
fertilis aestiua Nilus abundet aqua?
Nile pater, quanam possim te dicere causa
aut quibus in terris occuluisse caput?
te propter nullos tellus tua postulat imbres, 25
arida nec pluuiis supplicat herba Ioui.
te canit atque suum pubes miratur Osirim
barbara, Memphiten plangere docta bouem.
primus aratra manu sollerti fecit Osiris
et teneram ferro sollicitauit humum, 30
primus inexpertae commisit semina terrae
pomaque non notis legit ab arboribus.
hic docuit teneram palis adiungere uitem,
hic uiridem dura caedere falce comam.
illi iucundos primum matura saporos 35
expressa incultis uua dedit pedibus.
ille liquor docuit uoces inflectere cantu,
mouit et ad certos nescia membra modos.
Bacchus et agricolae magno confecta labore
pectora laetitiae dissoluenda dedit: 40
Bacchus et adflictis requiem mortalibus adfert,
crura licet dura compede pulsa sonent.

non tibi sunt tristes curae nec luctus, Osiri,
 sed chorus et cantus et leuis aptus amor,
 sed uarii flores et frons redimita corymbis, 45
 fusa sed ad teneros lutea palla pedes,
 et Tyriae uestes et dulcis tibia cantu
 et leuis occultis conscia cista sacris.
 huc ades et Genium ludis Geniumque choreis
 concelebra et multo tempora funde mero. 50
 illius et nitido stillent unguenta capillo,
 et capite et collo mollia sarta gerat.
 sic uenias, hodiernae: tibi dem turis honores,
 liba et Mopsopio dulcia melle feram.
 at tibi succrescat proles quae facta parentis 55
 augeat et circa stet ueneranda senem.
 nec faceat monumenta uiae, quem Tuscula tellus
 candidaque antiquo detinet Alba Lare.
 namque opibus congesta tuis, hic glarea dura
 sternitur, hic apta iungitur arte silex. 60
 te canet agricola, a magna cum uenerit Vrbe
 serus, inoffensum rettuleritque pedem.
 at tu, natalis, multos celebrande per annos,
 candidior semper candidiorque ueni.

TIBULLUS 1.7 (mainly following Lee)

1. Evidence for Messalla's activities at Actium and after: Syme (1986), 209-10.
2. Verbal correspondences between 'Messallan' and 'Osirian' sections of Tib. 1. 7:
 - (a) *uictrices lauros ... gerentem* (7): *mollia sarta gerat* (52)
 - (b) *pubes Romana* (5): *pubes/barbara* (27-8)
 - (c) *hic docuit ... palis adiungere, / hic ... dura caedere falce* (33-4): *hic glarea dura / sternitur, hic apta iungitur arte silex* (59-60)
 - (d) *te canit* (27): *te canet* (61)
3. Martial, *Epigramata* 10.87.17-20

uenator leporem, colonus haedum,
 piscator ferat aequorum rapinas.
 si mittat sua quisque, quid poetam
 missurum tibi, Restitute, credis?
4. Mutschler (1985), 113, n. 13:

' "The repetition of *nunc* at the beginning of the initial distichs and the end rhyme of line 1 and 3 enhance the hymnic solemnity" (PUTNAM, zu 3-4); '*non ulli*' für *nulli*; *pubes*: "the people". "An old fashioned use ..." (SMITH, zu 5); "*nouos triumphos* poetice pr. nouum triumphum" (DISSEN, zu 5); "*euinctos ... capta*: the double hypallage is rare even in Tibullus" (PUTNAM, zu 5-6).'

5. Horace *Carmina* 2.1.1-2, 37-40
 motum ex Metello consule ciuicum
 bellique causas...
- sed ne relictis, Musa procax, iocis
 Caeae retractes munera neniae,
 mecum Dionaeo sub antro
 quaere modos leuiore plectro.
6. Virgil, *Eclogues* 3. 104-7
 D. Dic quibus in terris (et eris mihi magnus Apollo)
 tris pateat caeli spatium non amplius ulnas.
 M. Dic quibus in terris inscripti nomina regum
 nascantur flores, et Phyllida solus habeto.
7. Horace *Epistulae* 1.4.1-2
 Albi, nostrorum sermonum candide iudex,
 quid nunc te dicam facere in regione Pedana?
8. Tibullus 1.10 (68 lines): *candidus*: 2; *candescere*: 1; *nitere*: 1
 Tibullus 2.5 (122 lines): 1 each of *candidus*, *nitidus*, *niueus*, *albus* (in *Alba Longa*)
9. Petronius *Satyricon* 43 niger tamquam coruus
 Juv. 7. 202 coruo ... rarior albo
 Apul. *Met.* 2.9 coruina nigredine
10. Ovid *Tristia* 4.4.3 (to Messalinus)
 cuius inest animo patrii candoris imago,
 non careat numeris candor ut iste suis
 Ovid *ex Ponto* 2.2.49 (to Messalinus)
 nunc tibi et eloquii nitor ille domesticus adsit
 Velleius Paterculus 2.71
 Coruinus Messalla, fulgentissimus iuuenis
 Tacitus, *Dialogus* 21.9
 nolo Coruinum insequi, quia non per ipsum stetit, quo minus laetitiam
 nitoremque nostrorum temporum exprimeret...
- Quintilian *Institutiones* 1.7.23
 aut ideo minus Messala nitidus, quia quosdam totos libellos non uerbis modo
 singulis, sed etiam litteris dedit?
id. 10.1.113:
 at Messala nitidus et candidus et quodam modo praeferens in dicendo
 nobilitatem suam, uiribus minor.
11. Seneca *Controversiae* 2.4.8
 exactissimi ingenii in omnes studiorum partes, Latini utique sermonis
 obseruator diligentissimus.

12. Adams (1982), 24:

‘The Latin sexual language is full of images which may be called ‘agricultural’ or ‘rustic’ (e.g. the similes at Lucil. 278, 330, *irrumo, glubo, molo, aro* = *futuo*, and in particular various words for the *cunnius* and *culus*: *ager, agellus, saltus, aruum, sulcus* and *aratiuncula*) ... Various metaphors for the penis ... have a distinctly rustic flavour (e.g. *terminus, caulis* in Lucilius, *cucumis, radix, ramus, palus, rutabulum*). To these can be added certain words strictly denoting agricultural implements.’

Vomer and *falx* are discussed by Adams in what immediately follows. Cf. Uría Varela (1997), 338. On *poma, uua* and *uitis* see also Nisbet-Hubbard on Hor. *Carm.* 2.5.10.

13. Horace *Carmina* 4.11.13-20

ut tamen noris quibus aduocaris
gaudiis, Idus tibi sunt agendae,
qui dies mensem Veneris marinae
findit Aprilem,

iure sollemnis mihi sanctiorque
paene natali proprio, quod ex hac
luce Maecenas meus affluentis
ordinat annos.

14. Martial, *Epigr.* 9.52

Si credis mihi, Quinte, quod mereris,
natalis, Ovidi, tuas Aprilis
ut nostras amo Martias Kalendas.
felix utraque lux diesque nobis
signandi melioribus lapillis!
hic uitam tribuit sed hic amicum.
plus dant, Quinte, mihi tuae Kalendae.

Cf. Censorinus, *De Die Natali* 3. 5-6.

15. Tibullus 1.5.31-6

‘huc ueniet Messalla meus, cui dulcia poma
Delia selectis detrahat arboribus,
et tantum uenerata uirum, hunc sedula curet,
huic paret atque epulas ipsa ministra gerat.’
haec mihi fingebam...

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