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Latin Sources

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Ovid: The first poems of the *Amores*

- 1.1 – the narrator claims he wanted to write epic (*arma gravi...bella parabam*) but the decision to write love poetry is forced by Eros and connected explicitly to the technicalities of writing poetry
 - The conceit of the stolen metrical foot also programmatically introduces humour into Ovid's elegy
- 1.2 – the narrator suffers lovesickness, but doesn't know why
- 1.3 – the narrator now knows he is in love, but focuses significantly more on his own suffering than on the object of his desire (who remains anonymous)

The first poems of the *Amores*

- 1.4 – the beloved is still not named. The elegiac *topos* of a feast scene and flirting in secret, with signs understandable only to a select few; cf. Callimachean poetics
- 1.5 – scene set for a lover's meeting, Corinna appears for the first time, and is described body part by body part:

praedo - onis

inshus - a - um

neut. pl.
adj.

verb deponent
1st sg present ind.

Ov. Am. 1.3.1-4

praedor /
- pray for

hortor /

hortatus sum
hortata sum
praed - pe

praeda - t - us
um
a

praedata est
3rd sg
sup.

iusta precor: quae me nuper praedata puella est,

aut amet aut faciat, cur ego semper amem.

amo / conj
amat

amet 3rd pres.
subj. act

facio 3/4
3rd pres

et i aut i que
"whatever"

Main clause
subj:
hortative
hortor /

Compare: Prop. 1.1.1-2

Cynthia prima suis me miserum cepit ocellis
contactum nullis ante cupidinibus

Ov. Am. 1.3.1-4

a, nimium uolui: tantum ^{only} ³ ^{patior} ^{loguitur} ^{amare} ^{inf. present} ^{passive} amari,
_{subj pres.}

^{then} ✓ audierit nostras tot Cytherea [✓] preces. ^{noster-ra-rum}
^{future perfect.} ^{nom sg fem}