Heroides 7 class notes

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Dido to Aeneas. Aeneas has said he is going and Dido has confronted him. Source text: Vergil's Aeneid. Exact timing?? ("opening up" moment of *Aen*. 4.413-15?).
Knox argues that it has no practical purpose: Dido resigned (fair?)
"...by refuting the arguments adduced by Virgil's Aeneas to justify his actions, O. poses a fundamental challenge to the heroic values of the *Aeneid*" (Knox, p202); Knox argues for "pessimistic" reading of *Aeneid* as beginning with Ovid *Her.* 7.

1-6: Knox sees words as wasted (Aeneas making preparations for departure): reader knows he will leave; how much is it a rhetorical pose for Dido? Suicide evoked (idea that swan has premonition of death and sings). Abrupt opening: nb medieval reader adds two lines at start to make more suitable beginning for letter (see Knox app. Crit.)
fata uocant: cf. *Aen*. 10.471-2 *etiam sua Turnum / fata uocant* (relevant that Dido linked to Turnus in Aeneid?)
1 *abiectus* "casting itself down" (Knox)
2 Maeander = river in Phrygia
4 *alloquor*: as if Aeneas present. Knox notes that in antiquity letter characterized as half a conversation, which is appropriate to Dido who does not expect a reply (but any desperate hope? Id doesn't expect reply, because of Aeneas' conduct in *Aeneid*?); *aduerso mouimus ista deo* "I have begun this with a god against me" (Knox). God i.e. Amor?
5 *merita* "my services" (Knox); cf. *Aen*. 4.317 *si bene quid de te merui*. Heroines has strong sense of reciprocity broken down: cf. e.g. *Her.* 2.17-16; *famam*: picks up important idea in *Aeneid* (cf. *Aen*. 4.322-3 *extinctus pudor et, qua sola sidera adibam, / fama prior*); *corpusque animumque pudicum*: "the modesty of my body and heart" (Knox)
6 *male perdiderim:* "wretchedly wasted"; (Knox) polyptoton of *perdo*; *leue est*: "it is a small matter" (Knox)
7-22: starts at 7-12 with incredulous questions. Matter designed to make Aeneas think twice. Ovid evokes recall of future wife Lavinia for readers.
7 *certus es ire*: echoing *Aen*. 4.554 *Aeneas ... iam certus eundi*; for epithet *misera* of Dido, see *Aen*. 4.315, 4.420, 4.429 (also *infelix*)
9 *cum foedere soluere naues* "cast off your ships and your pledge" (Knox): untying ship cables and dissolving pledge. Question of what was the relationship between Dido and Aeneas. Here Ovidian Dido sees the relationship as marriage (ambiguity in Aeneid: see e.g. parody of marriage ritual in cave scene; Vergilian Aeneas keen to stress it wasn't a marriage; Vergilian Dido less sure- lack of clarification hints at dysfunctional nature of their relationship)
10 as Knox notes, Ovid exploits some confusion over Aeneas' knowledge of destined founding (told Italy and Tiber but founding on wrong spot); *Itala regna sequi*: cf. Aen. 4.275 *cui regnum Italiae Romanaque tellus debentur*; 4.361 *Italiam non sponte sequor.*
11 evokes supposed etymological derivation of Carthage from new city in Punic

11-12: Aeneas initially enthusiastic about building work (jealous *Aen*. 1.437) and gets involved (cf. *Aen*. 4.259-61)
12 *summa*: sc. *rerum* "the fortunes of the state" (Knox). Presented as Aeneas ruling (makes idea that he goes off as future founder in danger/uncertainty seem absurd)
13-14 *quaerenda … quaesita*: "sought ... found" (Knox)
15 concessive *ut* "suppose that" (Knox)
quis ... tradet habendam: "who will hand it over to your control?" (Knox)
17 *scilicet alter amor tibi restat*: "I suppose you have another woman waiting for you" (Diggle); sarcastic (but reader knows tradition)
18 see Knox on Vergil interpolating; *quamque iterum fallas*: "for you to break another time" (Knox)
19 "when will it be likely" (Knox)
instar Carthaginis urbem : "a city as grand as Carthage"
21 *eueniant* "come true" (Knox)
22 *quae te sic amet* "to love you like this" (generic subjunctive). Knox notes that will be true in that Lavina-Aeneas marriage matter of convenient alliance (no meeting/romance)
23-36: Knox sees as monologue
23 *uror*: surely picking up on fire imagery in *Aeneid* which culminates in real pyre (e.g. *Aen*. 4.68 *uritur infelix Dido*); inducto ... sulpure "coated with sulphur"; wax candle (*cereus*) used at funerals; *taeda* associated with weddings: i.e. familiar play on wedding as funeral.
24-25: accepted by Knox (in later mss.)
26 *Aenean animo ... refert*: cf. Aen. 4.83 *illum absens absentem auditque uidetque*. *quies*: emendation of *dies* to fit with acceptance of 24-5. *noxque quiesque*: hendiadys "the stillness of the night" (Knox)
27 *quidem*: sets up contrast (on the one hand...); *male gratus = ingratus*; *ad mea munera surdus* "indifferent to my kindness" (Knox)
28 *et quo ... carere uelim*: "the kind of man I should want to be rid of" (Knox); generalizing subjunctive; *stulta* "an idiot" (Knox).
29 Dido claims not to hate Aeneas (in *Aen*. 4.609-29 curses): Knox sees in terms of reframing the epic in terms of amatory elegy; *quamuis male cogitat*: "though his plans are wicked" (Knox)
30 *peius* i.e. *uehementius* "I love him worse" (Knox); colloquial; *queror* (here repeated in different cases) is leitmotif of *Heroides*. cf. Catullus odi et amo?
31 *nurui*: daughter-in-law of Venus: Dido making point that it is a marriage.
31-2: Cupid brother of Aeneas through mother Venus; in Aen., Dido had been embraced.
32 castris militet ille tuis: "let him be a solider in your camp" (Knox); warfare of love (*militia amoris*) motif has elegiac colouring.
33 understand *praebeam*; Knox adopts mss *quae* over variant *quem*. If need be, Dido just wants Aeneas to let himself be loved. As Knox, possible metaliterary resonance in materiam (cf. Ov. *Am*. 1.3.19) and *cura*.
35 *fallor*: what Dido was; *ista mihi falsae iactatur imago* "that fantasy flits before me in my delusion" (Knox); Knox adopts Heinsius' *falsae* over mss *falso*.
37-74: directs words at Aeneas. Cf. *Aen*. 4.309-11 (Aeneas will leave with unfavourable winds- here Dido imagines further to dissuade him)
37-8 cf. *Il*. 16.33-5 (sea/rocks parentage) and later version *Aen*. 4.365-7 *nec tibi diua parens generis nec Dardanus auctor, / perfide, sed duris genuit te cautibus horrens Caucasus Hyrcanaeque admorunt ubera tigres*.
38 *progenuere*: only in Augustan poetry in Ovid and *Aen*. 4.180.
39 Aeneas came to Carthage in storm/shipwreck
40 *qua*: "by which way" (Knox); tamen "nevertheless" (Knox)
41 *hiemis prosit*: "let the winds' partiality do me some good" (Knox)
42 *euersas concitet … aquas*: "stirs the waters into violent agitation" (Knox); cf. *Aen*. 1.43 *euertitque aequora uentis*.
43 *malueram* (indic for subjunctive, as often in hypothetical expressions) "I should have preferred if

I had had the choice" (Knox)
44 usually elements like sea are figured as cruel in comparisons to people; here twist is that sea and wind have more human qualities.
45 *numquid censeris inique?* "you're not being rated unfairly, I trust" (Knox); ironic; economic metaphor in *censeor* continued in next couplet; *tanti*: genitive of value.
46 causal *dum*; cf. Dido at *Aen*. 4.314 mene fugis?.
47 *exerces ... odia*: "practice hatred" (Knox); elisions in *pretiosa odia et* expressive of Dido's anger (so Knox); *magno*: ablative of price.
48 *dum me careas* "so long as you might be rid of me" (Knox); uile "of little account" (Knox) + infin.
49 *ponent* "will fall" (Knox); strataque aequaliter unda "with the waves spread evenly" (Knox). Spondaic except for fifth foot, evocative of water flow.
50 *caeruleis ... equis*: "Triton will ride through the sea on his blue-green steeds" (Knox); cf. Calm *Aen*. 1.144-7; echo of Neptune *Aen*. 5.819 *caeruleo per summa leuis uolat aequora curru*; see Knox ad loc on Carthage god known as Triton to outsiders.
51 "I wish that you too were changeable with the winds" (Knox); *Aen*. 4.569-70 *uarium et mutabile semper / femina*.
52 *et ..eris*: Knox connects move to indicative with mood swing back to hopeful; *duritia*: elegiac colouring; note also Aeneas' link with hardness and trees in *Aen* (e.g oak simile).
53-4 "Why, as if you did not know the power of the wild sea, do you put your trust in the waters of which you have so many times had such bad experiences?" (Knox)
54 *expertae*: sc. *a te*.
55 *ut*: concessive
57 *nec ... prodest*: "nor is it advantageous for those who test the waves to break faith" (Knox); *temptantibus aequora*: = *eis qui temptant*.
58 perfidiae: violation of Aeneas' fides (cf. Jason)
59 *laesus*: sc. *fuerit*. Ancient readers wouldn't have to make the decision between "love" and "Love/Cupid". Venus/Aphrodite born from sea.
60 *Cytheriacis ... aquis*: the waters near the island of Cythera, where Aphrodite was said to have come first.
63 unlike Vergilian Dido (who prays for Aeneas' death, *Aen*. 4.382-7): just wishes Aeneas may be punished by feelings of remorse and the bad reputation his treatment of her will lead to.
64: suicide (how serious at this point? Rhetorically motivated mention?); *ferere*: "you will be called" (Knox)
65 *nullum ... pondus*: "may there be no significance in the omen"
66 *quid tibi mentis erit?* "what will be your state of mind?" (Knox)
67 *falsae periuria linguae*: "the perjuries of your lying tongue" (Knox); aeneid reference to perjury *Aen*. 4.541-2 *necdum / Laomedonteae sentis periuria gentis*
68 compressing Aen. 4.382-4 *spero equidem mediis, si quid pia numina possunt, / supplicia hausurum scopulis et nomine Dido / saepe uocaturum*; *Phrygia ... fraude* "Trojan treachery" (Knox): Dido blaming race
69-70 cf *Aen* 4.384-6 *sequar atris ignibus absens / et, cum frigida mors anima seduxit artus, / omnibus umbra locis adero*
69 Knox notes recalls *Aen*. 1.353-4 (Sychaeus); Aeneas had visits (Creusa, Hector)
71 "What can be so important that you would be willing to say 'I deserve it; forgive me!'?" (Knox)
73 *breue ... spatium*: "a brief time to relent" (Knox); cf. *Aen*. 4.433 *tempus inane peto, requiem spatiumque furori*; savagery of storm/Aeneas.
74 *morae pretium* "worth the time spent" (Knox)
75-110: plays on fatherly emotions: think of Ascanius and stay (as if read Vergil and twisting arguments; cf. *Aen*. 4.353-5 *admonet .... / me puer Ascanius capitisque inuria cari, / quem regno Hesperiae fraudo*); loss of Creusa (uncomfortable aspects glossed over by Vergil but is Ovid picking up a "further voice"? Aeneas giving own, partial commentary of events to Dido?)

75 concessive *ut*; adopts Housman's *haec minus ut cures*
76 *titulum mortis habere meae*: “the distinction of causing my death” (Knox)
77 Penates rescues from Troy, sign of Aeneas' piety and proto-Rome's divine backing; cf. *Aen*. 2.717; adopts Palmer's *quid commeruere*.
78 *ignibus ereptos*: cf. *Aen*. 3.149-50 *quos mecum a Troia mediisque ex ignibus urbis / extuleram*. Fire/water.
79 *quae mihi ... iactas*: “that you brag to me about” (Knox); cf. Vergilian Dido (but more obvious disbelief here) *en dextra fidesque, / quem secum patrios aiunt portare penatis, / quem subiisse umeris confectum aetate parentem!*; infatuated Dido repeatedly asked for story (*Aen*. 4.77-9)
81 *omnia mentiris*: cf. *Aen*. 4.373 *nusquam tuta fides*,
81-2 *neque ... -que*: “and indeed …. not” (Knox)
83 *si quaeras*: Knox sees as scathing; Iulus here labelled formosus (Vergil uses pulcher four times)
84 suits Dido's point to make out Creusa is dead: Vergilian Aeneas has her rescued by Cybele (following tradition) but Dido sceptical of Aeneas' tales; *sola relita uiro*: Knox sees as evocative of Propertius lines
85 *narraras et me mouere*: “You told me this story and its effect was not lost on me” (Knox): cf. *Aen*. 2.738-40; narraras = narraueras.
86 *ure*: “torture” (Knox) but picking up fire imagery and foreshadowing pyre.
87 *tua numina*: i.e. Penates
88 As in *Aeneid*, Aeneas preparing to go in wintry, stormy weather (when shouldn't sail). Vergilian Aeneas had told Dido *Aen*. 1.755-6 *nam te iam septima portat / omnibus errantem terris et fluctibus aestas*,
89-90 cf. *Aen*. 4.373-4 *eiectum litore, / egentem excepi et regni demens in parte locaui*,
89 *tuta statione* “safe anchorage” (Knox)
90 *uixque bene audito nomine*: “and I barely heard your name, when” (Knox)
91-2: Dido blunt (contrast *Aen*. 4.165-8)
91 *officiis*: Knox remarks that this is ironic as she had no obligations to Aeneas.
92 *sepulta*: Knox says i.e. consigned to oblivion.
93-6 cf. cave scene, *Aen*. 4.160-72, now from Dido's perspective,
93 *illa dies nocuit*: cf *Aen*. 4.169-70 *ille dies primus leti primusque malorum / causa fuit*; *decliue sub antrum*: “ a sloping cavern” (Knox); a *speluncam* (*Aen*. 4.165).
94 *caeruleus ... imber*: “a dark rain storm” (Knox): phrase at e.g. *Aen*. 3.194, 5.10.
95 *uocem*: “ a sound” (Knox)
nymphas ululasse putaui: nymphs in Aeneid *ulularunt* (4.168); Dido looking back: thought nymphs but now realizes Eumenides
96 *Eumenides fati signa dedere mei*: “the Eumenides gave the signal for my doom” (Knox): picks up *Aen*.4.167 where Tellus and Juno said to give signal (of marriage; here doom)
97-8: Knox ad loc discusses text. Vergilian Dido broke vow to stay as *univira* (*Aen*. 4.15-18): haunts her later (*Aen*. 4.552 *non seruata fides cineri promissa Sychaeo*).
97 *laese pudor* “my lost chastity” (Knox)
97-97a: as Knox remarks recalls vow not kept at *Aen*. 4.25-7 *uel pater omnipotens adigat me fulmine ad umbras / .... ante, pudor, quam te uiolo aut tua iura resoluo*.
97b: cf. *Aen*. 4.552 *non seruata fides cineri promissa Sychaei*
99-102 cf. *Aen*. 4.457-61.
99-100 shrine included image of dead Sychaeus; garlanded with woollen strands.
100 *appositae*: not mss variant *oppositae*; take also with *uellera*.
103 *debita coniunx*: bound by marriage-tie and pledge that she would die before remarrying
104 *admissi* “crime” (Knox)
105 *culpae*: cf. *Aen*. 4.19 *huic uni forsan potui succumbere culpae*; *idoneus auctor* “a suitable authority”; Knox notes phrase used of trustworthy authors (Vergil in play?)
106 *inuidiam ... meae*: “he removes the ill will that might otherwise attach itself to my offence” (Knox); cf. *Her.* 4.33f. (Phaedra).

107 “The fact that his mother is a goddess and that his old father had been carried out of filial piety” (Knox); *sarcina* (lit.soldier's luggage)= dismissive
108 *mansuri* “who would remain” (Knox); *rite* “as was proper “(Knox)
109 *si fuit errandum*: understand *mihi* “if I had to stray” (Knox)
110 *adde fidem* “consider too his reliability” (Knox); *nulla parte* “in no respect” (Knox); subject of pigendus is error; Dido to Sychaeus in letter to Aeneas!; Dido justifying her actions (protests too much?)
111 *durat in extremum*: “lasts to the end” (Knox); *uitaeque nouissima nostrae*: “the final moments of my life” (Knox)
112 *fati … tenor*: “the course of my destiny” (Knox)
113f. Pygmalion kills Sychaeus for his wealth
113: cf. *Aen*. 1.349 (brother kills Sychaeus: impius ante aras) and 4.21 *sparsos fraterna caede penatis*; *internas* here has sense “within the house”; mactatus: as Knox notes, conjures sacrificial victim
115-16 *exul agor … patriamque relinquo, / et feror*: reworks Aeneas' words to Vergilian Dido *Aen*. 3.10-11 *litora cum patriae lacrimans portusque relinquo / … feror exsul in altum*. NB exile was one of Vergilian Dido and Aeneas' common bonds.
115: Knox ad loc notes though seems to contradict reference to Sychaeus as unburied at *Aen.* 1.353 but 4.673-4 shows S in underworld and therefore must have been buried.
116 Dido draws attention to her bravery and vulnerability
117 *applicor his oris*: reworking Vergilian Dido's words to Aeneas at *Aen*. 1.616 (role reversal): *quae uis immanibus applicat ori*s?
118 *perfide*: cf. Phyllis *Her.* 2.78; abandoned/lamenting Catullan Ariadne Cat. 64.132-3 *sicine me patriis auectam, perfide, ab aris, / perfide, deserto liquisti in litore, Theseu*?; Ariadne one of models behind Vergilian Dido, *Aen*. 4.305f. *dissimulare etiam sperasti,perfide, tantum / posse nefas tacitusque mea decedere terra; litora emo*: reference to bull-hide trick for buying land (Cf. *Aen*. 1.367f.); Aeneas painted as ungrateful since she claims to have given him the land; Knox suggests beach reference inversion of Iarbus' remarks Aen. 4.212f.
119-20 *urbem constitui*: cf. *Aen*. 4.655 *urbem praeclaram statui; fixi / moenia*: trumphing *Aen*. 4.655 *mea moenia uidi*.
120 *inuidiosa*: “that provokes jealousy” (Knox); cf. *Aen*. 4.39-43 (Anna telling Dido of threat of neighbouring African races); nb tradition that post-suicide sister Anna must flee Carthage, captured by Iarbas.
121 *tument*: metaphor from swelling of sea at onset of storm (Knox)- picks up storm motif; Dido emphasizes her vulnerability (cf. *rudis* in next line).
122 “and, all inexperienced I can hardly make ready the city gates and my troops” (Knox)
123 *mille*: typically of a large number; here Dido exaggerates number to make her seem more attractive and tweaks to suggest she rejected in favour of Aeneas (contra *Aen*. 4.36-7): picks up Vergilian Iarbas acting as spurned lover (Aen. 4.213f.; cf. 4.320f. *te propter Libycae gentes Nomadumque tyranni / odere, infensi Tyrii*); *coiere querentes* “joined in complaining” (Knox)
124 *nescioquem*: dismissive (focalizing from suitors' perspective); *thalamis … suis*: “marriage to them” (Knox)
125-8: cf. *Aen*. 4.325-6 *quid moror? an mea Pygmalion dum moenia frater destruat / aut captam ducat Gaetulus Iarbas?* Dido puts blame on Aeneas
125 *Gaetulo*: i.e. African (from nomadic tribe of Numidian); Iarbas mentioned in *Aeneid*.
126 *praebuerim*: perfect subjunctive for a deliberately vague assertion (Knox)
127 *impia*: cf. Aen.1.349 Pygmalion = *impius*.
129 *pone deos*: “put down those images of the gods” (Knox) i.e. penates; *sacra*: “sacred objects” (Knox); cf. *Aen*. 2.293 *sacraque suosque tibi commendat Troia penatis*; *profanas*: “desecrate” (Knox). Upturns pious image of *Aeneid*.
130 *impia dextra*: Knox rightly makes the connection with Pygmalion's hand 127; Vergilian Aeneas has epithet *pius*...

131-2 “In as much as you were fated to attend to their worship when they had escaped the fire, the gods have reason to regret that they did escape it” (Knox)
133-8: reworks *Aen*. 4.327-30
133 Dido (P ms): as at 7, accusative
134 *clausa* “confined” (Knox)
135 *accedet fatis*: “will be added to the doom” (Knox)
136 if she is pregnant and commits suicide, Aeneas will be killer of urborn child: hardly the pious, son-loving character of the Aeneid.
137 *frater... Iuli*: as Knox observes, criticism of founder of Julian gens would not have appealed to Augustus
138 *conexos* “joined together” (Knox); one / two juxtaposition
139-80: on question of divine backing for mission. Settlement in Carthage promoted but then moves to request for delay.
139: picking up Aeneas' claims of *Aen*. 4.345-59; *uellem uetuisset*: “I wish that he had forbidden” (Knox); reader may have been reminded of divine interference driving Aeneas to Carthage and ensuring Aeneas' safe reception.
140 colloquial use of auxiliary verb in passive in the pluperfect (see Knox); *Punica ... humus*: “Carthaginian soil” (Knox)
141 *hoc duce nempe deo* “of course, this is the guide who guides you” (Knox); sceptical and sarcastic (cf. Dido *Aen*. 4.379-80 *scilicet is superis labor est en cura quietos / sollicitat*. Knox says she means Apollo (cf. *Aen*. 3.94-8; 6.59 *tot maria intraui duce te*)
142 teris … tempora longa: “waste such a long time” (Knox). Vergilian Mercury had suggested Aeneas is wasting time in Carthage (*Aen*. 4.271 *qua spe Libycis teris otia terris?*)
143-4 “It would hardly be expected that you would expend so much suffering to return to Troy itself, if it were still the city it was when Hector lived” (Knox). Cooler version of *Aen*. 4.311-14 *quid, si non arua aliena domosque / ignotas peteres, et Troia antiqua maneret, / Troia per undosum peteretur classibus aequor?*
145 *Simoenta*: Greek accusative. Dido calls it “native”, possibly polemically reversing Vergilian presentation of Tiber as ancestral river (due to idea of shared genealogy).
146 concessive *ut*
147 picks up *Aeneid* presentation of Italy as receding (cf. *Aen*. 3.496f., 5.629, 6.61). *latet* looks to supposed etymology of Latium from the verb; *ut* “considering how” (Knox)
149 *ambage remissa*: “with no more beating about the bush” (Knox); plays on *ambages* as “meandering course”
150: Dido brought wealth of husband with her (*Aen*. 1.363f)
151 “you will have better fortune if you resettle” (Knox)
152 *resque loco*: adoption of Palmer's conjecture; *resque*: “affairs of state” (Knox)
154 *suo partus Marte triumphus*: “a triumphal procession secured by his own prowess” (Knox)
155 *quem superet*: “for him to conquer” (Knox) (final subjunctive).
156 *pacis leges* “terms of peace” (Knox); *capit*: “offers scope for” (Knox); omen of horse's head at Carthage didn't suggest peace, but war.
157 *matrem*: i.e. Venus (cf. *Her.* 2.39, Phyllis); weapons of brother refer to arrows of step-brother Cupid.
158: see Knox ad loc on mannered word-order
159 *sic superent*: “so may they remain alive” (Knox); *reportat* (Madvig conjecture) “escort home” (Knox): of Mars escorting home survivors.
160 *modus* “limit” (Knox); *ille* I.e. Trojan war.
161 *suos ... impleat annos* “fill out to completion his allotted years” (Knox).
162 *molliter ossa cubent*: funeral inscription motif; also cf. *Ecl*. 10.33 (spoken by character Gallus) *molliter ossa cubent* (looking to Gallus' love poetry?)
165 Achilles was from Phthia; Agamemnon was from Mycenae.
166 cf. *Aen*. 4.425-6 *non ego cum Danais Troianam exscindere gentem / Aulide iuraui classemue ad*

Pergama misi.
167 *si pudet uxori*s: “if you are ashamed to have me as wife” (Knox); *hospita*: picks up *Aen*. 4.323-4 *cui me moribundam deseris hospes / (hoc solum nomen quoniam de coniuge restat)?*
169-80: poor weather for sailing; claims to wish now for a little delay; cf. *Aen*. 4.433-4.
169: *plangentia*: Heinsius' conjecture. Fits sorrowful mood.
170 *temporibus certis*: “at fixed times of the year” (Knox)
171 *carbasa*: first instance of neuter plural form here; cf. *Aen*. 4.417.
172 *eiectam*: “driven ashore” (Knox); seaweed on shore shows storms which are the things that actually delay.
173 *tempus ut obseruam*: “to watch for an opportunity” (Knox). How trustworthy would she be?; *certior*: cf. *Aen*. 5.1-2 *interea medium Aeneas iam classe tenebat / certus iter.*
174 unlikely but rhetorically motivated; *si* = *etsi*.
175 unlikely that fleet is still in need of repair after Aeneas' prolonged stay; Dido exaggerates.
176 *postulat* “requires” (Knox).
177 *siqua tibi praebebimus ultra*: “anything further I shall give you” (Knox) – like a child; mss read *debebimus*.
178 *non*: Hall's emendation for mss' *pro*; as Kox notes, Ovid is interpreting an ambiguity over how to read *inane* in Dido's 4.433 *tempus inane peto.*
179 *dum*: “while” (Knox); *mitescunt* must be construed in a slightly different way with *freta* and *amor* (syllepsis); *tempore et usu* “by the passing time and by becoming used to the idea” (Knox)
181-96: Dido claims she will commit suicide.
181 *si minus* “otherwise” (Knox); *est animus* “it is my intention”(Knox)
182 *crudelis*: Vergilian Dido calls Aeneas this at *Aen*. 4.311 and 4.661-2 *hauriat hunc oculis ignem crudelis ab alto / Dardanus*.
184: Vergilian Dido gets sister to bring Aeneas' arms to her and she kills herself with his swprd (*Aen*. 4.495); cf. *Am*. 2.18.25 (Dido writing letter) *tenens strictum … ensem*.
187 “How well your gift suits my destiny!” (Knox); sword left rather than given; *munera* can be used for offering to dead.
188 *instruis … sepulcra*: as Knox observes, the phrase is figurative “you provide my funeral service” but keeps something of literal force “you build my tomb”
190 wound metaphor nods to *Aen*. 4.1f. *At regina graui iamdudum saucia cura / uulnus alit uenis*; *saeui … Amoris*: subjective genitive; Knox uses capital: i.e. Cupid.
191 Anna has important part in *Aeneid*; here first mentioned; *meae mala conscia culpae*: “accomplish in my offence” (Knox). Allusion to tradition that Anna was lover of Aeneas? For *culpa*, cf. *Aen*. 4.19 *huic uni forsan potui succumbere culpae*; 4. 172 *coniugium uocat, hoc praetexit nomine culpam*.
192: for Romans (and Dido from Carthage!), offerings were wine/oil onto ashes.
193 *consumpta rogis*: “when I have been consumed by the pyre” (Knox); *Elissa Sychaei*: genitive to indicate married to used in tomb inscriptions
193-6: writing/inscriptions. Draws attention to fact Dido writing and fictionality of letters.
194 *hoc tantum … carmen*: “this brief epigram” (Knox); *tantum*: Housman's conjecture
195 *PRAEBUIT AENEAS … CAUSAM*: clearing it up for Vergilian Aeneas (Aen. 6.458 *funeris heu tibi causa fui?*)