

Statius

Statius was born c. 45 AD, his father becoming a teacher in Naples after enjoying success in poetic competitions¹. Though being of Greek descent, Statius found great success from a young age in Rome². Despite marrying a woman named Claudia, who happened to be another poet's widow, Statius had no children of his own³. His marriage, did however, provide him with a step-daughter⁴. He had three main certain bodies of work: *Thebaid*, *Silvae* and *Achilleid*⁵. *Thebaid* was completed c. 90 AD and was divided into 12 books but published with the entire work completed⁶. It focusses on the *Seven Against Thebes*, with it exploring the darker sides of what a human is capable of, examining both madness and violence⁷. *Thebaid* demonstrates that Statius was not afraid to critique or be self-aware, with the work involving a large amount of reflection. *Silvae* consisted of 32 poems and were likely written between 89-96 AD⁸. There was no one set occasion in which the poems were written for, with the title suggesting and supporting the idea that these poems were more *impromptu* and less polished⁹. Within this collection, most (26) were written in hexameters, and though were less reflecting than his other works, they were still by no means full of humour¹⁰. *Achilleid* was an unfinished work, owing to Statius' death in 95 AD prior to completion¹¹. Would it have been finished, it would have covered the entirety of Achilles' life, but instead the work cuts off before the hero even reaches Troy¹². From what did manage to be written, does reveal that it would have been a change from *Thebaid*, due to its more novelistic style of writing¹³.

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¹ *Silv.* 5.3; Feeney, 2012

² Feeney, 2012; Vessey, 2006

³ *Silv.* 3.5; Feeney, 2012

⁴ Feeney, 2012

⁵ Vessey, 2006

⁶ Vessey, 2006

⁷ Feeney, 2012

⁸ Vessey, 2006

⁹ Vessey, 2006

¹⁰ Feeney, 2012

¹¹ Feeney, 2012

¹² Feeney, 2012

¹³ Feeney, 2012