

Schlegel, Catherine. **Satire and the Threat of Speech: Horace's Satires, Book 1.** Wisconsin, 2005. 186p bibl index afp ISBN 0299209504, \$35.00. Reviewed in 2006sep CHOICE.

Schlegel (Univ. of Notre Dame) achieves two worthwhile goals: a salutary correction to naïve faith in the autobiographical veracity of Horace's *Satires* and a nuanced understanding of the logic behind Horace's choice of topics and their sequencing in the ten poems of Book I. Throughout, the author rightly insists that a personality is featured in the *Satires* calibrated to precise artistic purposes: "Horace designed [his] persona ... in the *Satires* to serve his poetic program, not to reveal the 'real' Horace." The heart of this book is a careful explication of that program. Specifically, Schlegel shows how the poet artfully disassembles the dangerous threatening quality of satiric speech (explicitly traced back to Lucilius) to engage and reassure his readers and even (as shown in a tour-de-force analysis of *Satire* 1.9) to enlist them as vicarious users of invective on his behalf. She accomplishes the latter through a judiciously tacit deployment of reader-response theory. Two of the seven chapters appeared previously as journal articles, which may explain some needlessly repetitive stretches. That said, the treatments of all ten satires are full of valuable insights and make for a cogent overall argument.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

— J. P. Holoka, *Eastern Michigan University*