

Horace. **The Satires of Horace**, tr. by A. M. Juster. Pennsylvania, 2008. 147p
bibl afp; ISBN 9780812240900, \$26.19. Reviewed in 2009jun CHOICE.

Horace's *Satires* are an acquired taste. As implied by Horace's alternative label for them—*sermones* (“talks” or “chats”)—these 18 short works feature a conversational quality, with transitional leaps in subject matter via free association. The tone of voice is light, never preachy, and mildly paternalistic, a style Horace attributed to the influence of his own father. A deceptively inartistic tenor ensures the appeal of the poet's philosophic (largely Epicurean) reflections on life's enduring moral dilemmas regarding money, sex, friendship, and the good life in general. Poet A. M. Juster has captured the nuances of Horace's delightful poems in a translation that combines a deft handling of the flow of thought with an apt verse form. He recasts the original Latin hexameters—a virtually impossible meter in English—as rhyming couplets in a more natural, (mostly) iambic pentameter verse pattern. The result is a charming and amusing style of poetry that captures the Horatian manner extremely well. An introductory appreciation by classicist Susanna Braund and 28 pages of notes round out what is now by far the best edition available of the *Satires* in English.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.

— J. P. Holoka, Eastern Michigan University