

12. STOP STEALING THE NAPKINS! : TO ASINIUS MARRUCINUS



sinius [p. 200] Marrucinus, you don't employ
your left hand too well: in wine and jest
you take neglected table-linen.

Do you think that's witty? Get lost, you fool:
it's such a sordid and such an unattractive thing.

Don't you believe me? Believe *Pollionus* [p. 227]
your brother, who wishes your thefts
could be fixed by money: he's a boy
truly stuffed with wit and humour.

So expect three hundred hendecasyllables
or return my napkin, whose value
doesn't disturb me, truly,
it's a remembrance of my friends.

Fabullus [p. 211] and *Veranius* [p. 237] sent me the gift,
napkins from Spain: they must be cherished
as my Veranius and Fabullus must be.