

Poetry - Lyrical, Narrative And Satirical Of The Civil War

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Having listed a cornucopia of faults that philosophy can cure—such as greed, love of glory, envy, anger, laziness, drunkenness, and lust—Horace picks greed and applies it to his addressee, calling Maecenas quite inappropriately a merchant.

White, Richard Grant, 1821

To all your praises we are deaf and blind. That they are men or women is less important to me than their roles in altering our history.

Horace

The letters are addressed both to known historical individuals—such as Maecenas Epist. It was hard to let the new poems enter this collection before my next book is finished.

Richard Grant White

Unlike Lucretius in his Epicurean epic *De rerum natura* which, written a generation earlier, greatly influenced the letters, Horace in the *Epistles* is not concerned with explicating a particular philosophical system and winning over his audience to a new way of thinking. The *Ludi saeculares* were intended to commemorate the transition from one saeculum or the longest human life span, counted as a period of one hundred years to another.

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