

# Addressees of Horace's *Odes*



**A**nany themes and many characters find their way into Horace's *Odes*. In what follows I attempt to list the direct addressees of the poet in this work. My classification is summarized in a table added as an appendix to this entry.

Some clarifications are now in order. This is a list of *directly* addressed individuals. Obviously many odes can be interpreted as a more or less unambiguous eulogy or censure of specific persons, but these indirect addressees are not recorded here.<sup>1</sup> There are, nevertheless, two notable exceptions. Firstly, the gods are deemed as direct addressees in the cases when the poet admonishes others to praise them.<sup>2</sup> Secondly, despite also being an indirect recipient, Plotius Numida is listed here due to the lack of other direct addressees in Ode 1.36.

Furthermore, the scope of this list also excludes exclamations,<sup>3</sup> as well as addressees in embedded narratives.<sup>4</sup>

1 For example, Ode 4.4 is an encomium of the Claudii Neronis and especially of Claudius Nero Drusus, but Rome is the direct addressee.

2 Ode 1.21 provides an example of this.

3 For example, the "*pro curia inversique mores!*" part in Ode 3.5.

4 For example, the invocation of gods ("*o deorum siquis haec audis*") during Europa's outburst in Ode

Moreover, the *oaristys* between the poet and Lydia (3.9) ("*the only one of Horace's lyrics in dialogue*")<sup>5</sup> is indexed under both headings – as would have happened with any ode including more than one addressees.

Finally, the Latin wording of each address is given in parentheses next to the numerical designation of the odes.<sup>6</sup> My purpose is to include only the information which is required to identify the addressee. Thus, writing down the collocation "*Aeli vetusto nobilis ab Lamo*" (3.17) is necessary to recognize Lucius Aelius Lamia, but the phrase "*Maecenas atavis edite regibus*" (1.1) does not play the same crucial role in establishing the identity of Gaius Cilnius Maecenas.



## 1. Specified addressees

### 1.1. Persons

#### 1.1.1. Poet's self

☞ 1.19, 1.34, 2.5,<sup>7</sup> 3.9, 3.30.

3.27.

5 Clifford Herschel Moore, *Horace: The Odes, Epodes and Carmen Saeculare*, American Book Company, New York and Cincinnati, 1902, p. 267.

6 As always, the first number denotes the book, while the second one marks the ode.

7 "*The anonymous addressee of 2.5 is most certainly the poet himself*" (Mario Citroni, "*Occasion and Levels of Address in Horatian Lyric*", in Michele Lowrie (ed.), *Horace: Odes and Epodes*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2009, p. 73n6).

## 1.1.2. Others

### 1.1.2.1. Non-human

#### 1.1.2.1.1. Mythological

- ☞ **Apollo:** 1.12 (“*Phoebe*”), 1.21 (“*intonsum [...] Cynthium*”), 1.31 (“*Latoe*”), 4.6 (“*Dive*”).
- ☞ **Bacchus:** 1.12, 2.19 (“*Liber*”), 3.25 (“*Bacche*”, “*Lenae*”).
- ☞ **Calliope:** 3.4 (“*Calliope*”).
- ☞ **Clio:** 1.12 (“*Clio*”).
- ☞ **Diana:** 1.12 (“*saevis inimica virgo beluis*”), 1.21 (“*Dianam*”), 3.22 (“*montium custos nemorumque*”).
- ☞ **Faunus:** 3.18 (“*Faune*”).
- ☞ **Fortuna:** 1.35 (“*diva, gratum quae regis Antium*”).
- ☞ **Jupiter:** 1.12 (“*orte Saturno*”).
- ☞ **Latona:** 1.21 (“*Latonomque*”).
- ☞ **Melpomene:** 1.24, 3.30, 4.3 (“*Melpomene*”).
- ☞ **Mercury:** 1.2 (“*filius Maiiae*”), 1.10, 3.11 (“*Mercuri*”).
- ☞ **Muse:** 1.26 (“*quae fontibus integris gaudes*”, “*Piplei dulcis*”).<sup>8</sup>
- ☞ **Venus:** 1.30, 4.1 (“*Venus*”), 3.26 (“*quae beatam diva tenes Cyprum et Memphin carentem Sithonia nive, regina*”).

<sup>8</sup> Pipla is “a bizarre spelling of ‘Pimplea’” (David R. Slavitt, *Horace: Odes*, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison and London, 2014, p. 40). Pimplea or Pimpleia (Πίμπλεια in Greek) was a place sacred to the Muses in Pieria, Greece.

### 1.1.2.1.2. Conceptual

- ☞ **Roma:** 4.4 (“*Roma*”).

### 1.1.2.2. Human

#### 1.1.2.2.1. Individuals

##### 1.1.2.2.1.1. Eponymous

##### 1.1.2.2.1.1.1. Kinfolks

- ☞ **Gaius Cilnius Maecenas:** 1.1, 1.20, 2.12, 2.17, 2.20, 3.8, 3.16, 3.29 (“*Maecenas*”).
- ☞ **Gaius Marcius Censorinus:** 4.8 (“*Censorine*”).
- ☞ **Lucius Aelius Lamia:** 3.17 (“*Aeli vetusto nobilis ab Lamo*”).
- ☞ **Lucius Manlius Torquatus (filius):** 4.7 (“*Torquate*”).
- ☞ **Lucius Sestius Nepos:** 1.4 (“*Sesti*”).
- ☞ **Marcus Aristius Fuscus:** 1.22 (“*Fusc*”).
- ☞ **Plotius Numida:** 1.36 (“*Numidae*”).
- ☞ **Pompeius Grosphus:** 2.16 (“*Grosph*”).
- ☞ **Pompeius Varro:** 2.7 (“*Pompei*”).
- ☞ **Publius Alfenus Varus:** 1.18 (“*Vare*”).
- ☞ **Publius Vergilius Maro:** 1.24, 4.12 (“*Vergili*”).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Concerning the Ode 4.12, let it be noted that “it is a matter of dispute whether this Vergil is the famous poet or another, unknown individual” (Jeffrey H. Kaimowitz (trans.), *The Odes of Horace*, Johns

- ☞ Quinctius Hirpinus: 2.11 (“*Hirpine Quincti*”).<sup>10</sup>
- ☞ Septimius: 2.6 (“*Septimi*”).

#### 1.1.2.2.1.1.2. Public figures

##### 1.1.2.2.1.1.2.1. Philosophers

- ☞ Archytas: 1.28 (“*Archyta*”).
- ☞ Gaius Sallustius Crispus: 2.2 (“*Crispe Sallusti*”).
- ☞ Iccius: 1.29 (“*Icci*”).

##### 1.1.2.2.1.1.2.2. Poets

- ☞ Albius Tibullus: 1.33 (“*Albi*”).
- ☞ Gaius Antonius Iullus: 4.2 (“*Iulle*”).

##### 1.1.2.2.1.1.2.3. Statesmen

- ☞ Augustus: 1.2, 4.15 (“*Caesar*”), 4.5 (“*Divis orte bonis, optume Romulae custos gentis*”, “*duxe bone*”),<sup>11</sup> 4.14 (“*Auguste*”).
- ☞ Gaius Asinius Pollio: 2.1 (“*Pollio*”).

Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2008, p. 165n3).

<sup>10</sup> Paul Shorey and Gordon J. Laing, *Horace: Odes and Epodes*, Benj. H. Sanborn & C°, Chicago, 1919, read “*Quinti*”. I follow the corrections of Stanley Lombardo (trans.) and Anthony Corbeill (introd. and notes), *Horace: Odes with Carmen Saeculare*, Hackett Publishing, Indianapolis and Cambridge, 2018, p. xviii.

<sup>11</sup> The word “*Caesar*” exists in this ode, but Augustus is addressed here only through the use of honorific vocatives.

- ☞ Gaius Valgius Rufus: 2.9 (“*Valgi*”).
- ☞ Lucius Licinius Murena: 2.10 (“*Licini*”).
- ☞ Lucius Munatius Plancus: 1.7 (“*Plance*”).
- ☞ Marcus Lollius: 4.9 (“*Lolli*”).
- ☞ Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa: 1.6 (“*Agrippa*”).
- ☞ Quintus Dellius: 2.3 (“*Delli*”).

##### 1.1.2.2.1.1.3. Others<sup>12</sup>

- ☞ Asterie: 3.7 (“*Asterie*”).
- ☞ Barine: 2.8 (“*Barine*”).
- ☞ Chloe: 1.23 (“*Chloe*”).
- ☞ Chloris: 3.15 (“*Chlori*”).
- ☞ Galatea: 3.27 (“*Galatea*”).
- ☞ Leuconoe: 1.11 (“*Leuconoe*”).
- ☞ Ligurinus: 4.1, 4.10 (“*Ligurine*”).<sup>13</sup>
- ☞ Lyce: 3.10, 4.13 (“*Lyce*”).
- ☞ Lyde: 3.28 (“*Lyde*”).
- ☞ Lydia: 1.8, 1.13, 1.25, 3.9 (“*Lydia*”).
- ☞ Neobule’s self: 3.12 (“*Neobule*”).
- ☞ Phidyle: 3.23 (“*Phidyle*”).

<sup>12</sup> This section mostly (but not always) lists the poet’s love interests: “*Horace introduces so many different names [...], and refrains so consistently from decisively casting his erotic lot with any of these, that readers must either marvel at the variegation of his love life or recognize that Horatian lyric is not invested in the development of a coherent erotic ‘plot’*” (Ellen Oliensis, *Loving Writing | Ovid’s Amores*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2019, p. 109).

<sup>13</sup> Shorey and Laing, *op. cit.*, read “*Ligurinum*” in Ode 4.10. I follow the corrections of Lombardo and Corbeill, *op. cit.*

- ☞ Phyllis: 4.11 (“*Phylli*”).
- ☞ Postumus: 2.14 (“*Postume, Postume*”).
- ☞ Pyrrha: 1.5 (“*Pyrrha*”).
- ☞ Pyrrhus: 3.20 (“*Pyrrhe*”).
- ☞ Thaliarchus: 1.9 (“*Thaliarche*”).
- ☞ Tyndaris: 1.17 (“*Tyndari*”).
- ☞ Xanthias the Phocean: 2.4 (“*Xanthia Phoceu*”).

#### 1.1.2.2.1.2. Anonymous

- ☞ 1.16 (“*matre pulcra filia pulchrior*”).
- ☞ 2.18 (“*tu*”).<sup>14</sup>
- ☞ 1.38, 3.14, 3.19 (“*puer*”).<sup>15</sup>
- ☞ 3.24.<sup>16</sup>

#### 1.1.2.2.2. Multitudes

- ☞ 1.21 (“*tenerae [...] virgines*”, “*pueri*”, “*mares*”).
- ☞ 1.27, 1.37 (“*sodales*”).
- ☞ 2.19 (“*poster*”).
- ☞ 3.1 (“*virginibus puerisque*”).
- ☞ 3.6 (“*Romane*”).<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> This anonymous addressee is perhaps Maecenas, see R. G. M. Nisbet and M. Hubbard, *A Commentary on Horace: Odes, Book II*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1978, p. 289-290.

<sup>15</sup> The ode contains a toast to Lucius Licinius Murena and yet “in 3.19 none of the characters addressed can be identified with Murena” (Citroni, *op. cit.*, p. 73n2).

<sup>16</sup> The ode is addressed to a “*diatribic ‘you’*” (Citroni, *op. cit.*, p. 74).

<sup>17</sup> Needless to say, “*Romanus*” is here a collective noun.

- ☞ 3.14 (“*plebs*”, “*pueri et puellae*”).

#### 1.2. Things

- ☞ Bandusia’s fount: 3.13 (“*fons Bandusiae*”).
- ☞ Lyre: 1.32, 3.11 (“*testudo*”).
- ☞ Ship: 1.3, 1.14 (“*navis*”).
- ☞ Tree: 2.13 (“*arbos*”).
- ☞ Wine-jar: 3.21 (“*testa*”).

#### 2. Unspecified addressees

- ☞ 1.15, 2.15, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5

CHRYSOVALANTIS SITSANIS

| 1. Specified   |                    | Address               |                         | Name                        | Ode  |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1.1. Persons   | 1.1.1. Poets, self | 1.1.2.1. Non-human    | 1.1.2.1.1. Mythological | Apollo                      | 1.19, 1.34, 2.5, 3.9, 3.20                   |
|                | 1.1.2. Others      |                       |                         | 1.2, 1.21, 1.31, 4.6        |  |
| 1.2. Things    | 1.1.2.2. Human     | 1.1.2.2.1. Conceptual | 1.1.2.2.1.1. Individual | 1.1.2.2.1.1.1. Kinfolks     | 1.2, 2.9, 3.25                               |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.1.2. Public figures | 1.12   |
| 2. Unspecified | 1.2. Things        | 1.1.2.2.2. Anonymus   | 1.1.2.2.2.1. Multitudes | 1.1.2.2.2.1.1. Kinfolks     | 1.12, 1.21, 3.22                             |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.1.2. Poets        | 3.18   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.1.3. Others       | 1.35   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.2. Others         | 1.2, 3.35, 4.3                               |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.3. Others         | 1.2, 1.10, 3.11                              |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.4. Others         | 1.26   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.5. Others         | 1.30, 3.26, 4.1                              |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.6. Others         | 4.4  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.7. Others         | 1.1, 1.20, 2.12, 2.17, 2.20, 3.8, 3.16, 3.29 |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.8. Others         | 4.8  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.9. Others         | 4.7  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.10. Others        | 4.7  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.11. Others        | 1.4  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.12. Others        | 1.22   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.13. Others        | 1.36   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.14. Others        | 2.16   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.15. Others        | 2.7  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.16. Others        | 1.8  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.17. Others        | 1.24, 4.12                                   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.18. Others        | 2.11   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.19. Others        | 2.6  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.20. Others        | 1.28   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.21. Others        | 2.3  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.22. Others        | 1.29   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.23. Others        | 1.39   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.24. Others        | 4.2  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.25. Others        | 1.2, 4.3, 4.14, 4.15                         |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.26. Others        | 2.1  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.27. Others        | 2.9  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.28. Others        | 2.10   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.29. Others        | 1.6  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.30. Others        | 1.6  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.31. Others        | 2.3  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.32. Others        | 3.7  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.33. Others        | 2.8  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.34. Others        | 1.23   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.35. Others        | 1.5  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.36. Others        | 3.2  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.37. Others        | 1.11   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.38. Others        | 4.1, 4.10                                    |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.39. Others        | 3.10, 4.13                                   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.40. Others        | 3.28   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.41. Others        | 1.8, 1.13, 1.25, 3.9                         |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.42. Others        | 3.2  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.43. Others        | 4.1  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.44. Others        | 4.1  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.45. Others        | 2.14   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.46. Others        | 1.5  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.47. Others        | 3.20   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.48. Others        | 1.9  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.49. Others        | 1.7  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.50. Others        | 1.16, 1.38, 2.18, 3.14, 3.19, 3.24           |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.51. Others        | 1.21, 1.27, 1.37, 2.19, 3.1, 3.6, 3.14       |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.52. Others        | 3.13   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.53. Others        | 1.32, 3.11                                   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.54. Others        | 1.37, 1.14                                   |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.55. Others        | 3.1  |
|                |                    |                       |                         | 1.1.2.2.2.56. Others        | 1.15, 2.15, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5                    |

Table 1. The addressees of Horace's Odes