

Title: *mediocritas* and Time in Horace's *Odes*
Panel: Literature of Knowledge (14)
Name: Roger Hewer-Candee
Address: Wadham College, Oxford, OX1 3PN, UK

I shall examine *mediocritas* in *Odes* 2.9, 2.10, 2.11 and 3.29, and compare Horace's ethical concept to Aristotle's discussions *mesotes* (*Nicomachean Ethics* 2) and time (*Physics* 4).

My main arguments are: (1) Time is one of the scales on which Horace measures intermediacy and extremity; (2) Horace suggests that otherwise excessive behaviour becomes ethically acceptable if its duration is limited; (3) these ideas contribute to the larger theme of the necessity of change; (4) Horace's engagement with Aristotle is marked by sensitive adaptation and clever innovation.

Ultimately, Horace employs the poet's method of depiction rather than the philosopher's method of argumentation in order to communicate sophisticated ethical ideas with exceptional conciseness and literary artistry.