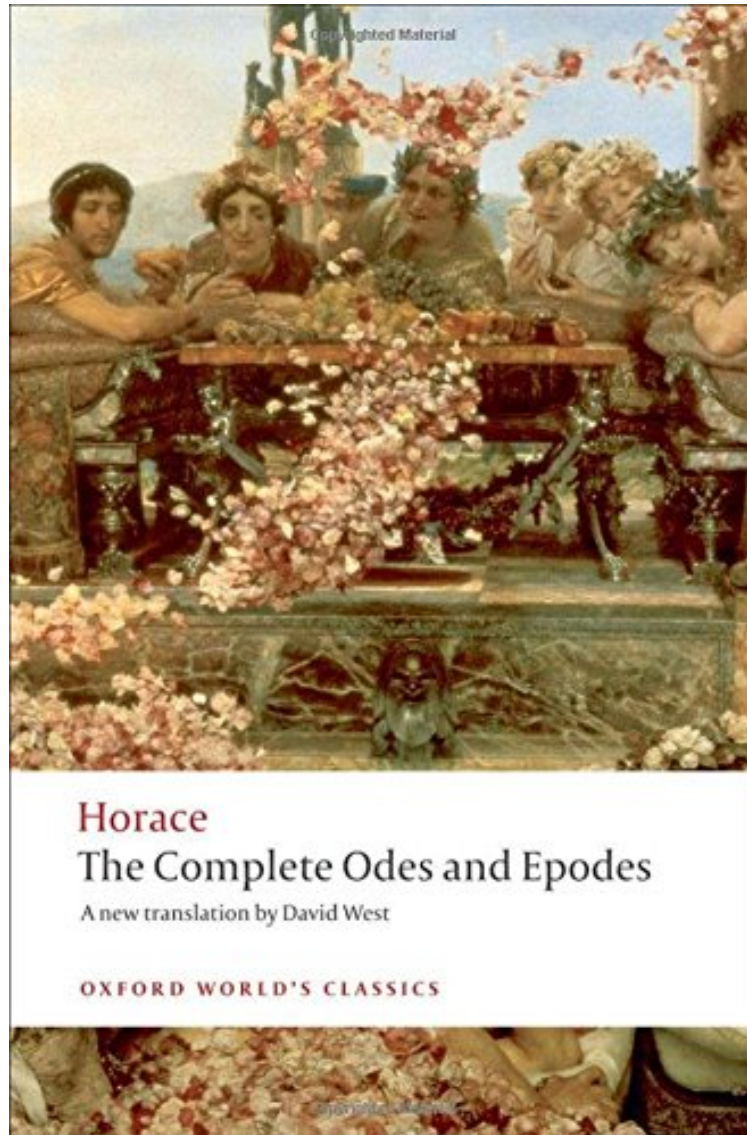


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## The Complete Odes and Epodes (Oxford World's Classics)

*Horace*

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**Horace : The Complete Odes and Epodes (Oxford World's Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Odes and Epodes (Oxford World's Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent edition! By scribeI appreciate the translation, Intro., full supply of notes, and glossary, as well as Chronology and biography of Horace. Excellent edition! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Classic By Patrick Mayfield Enjoyed this book, it was not too difficult to read, it is an excellent copy. I would recommend this book to everyone. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Should

be Read as Much as the Iliad or OdysseyBy PlotinusIt is unfortunate Horace is not read as much in English as are translations of Homer or Vergil, or Beowulf for that matter. Horace, in the whole sweep of history, has been one of the most influential of the great classical authors. As he explains in his poems, his "thing" was not to write epic narrative, but to write short poems, packed with meaning, imagery and sound. He models himself on Alcaeus and Pindar most of all, but on all the classical Greek lyrical poets really, and he conjures up a beautiful and enchanting, naturalistic and mythologized world of the ancient Mediterranean. These kind of poems are meant to be read over again, and even memorized and meditated upon - slightly different than epic, where you read more, and everything connects to everything else. Horace's poems make statements about life, death, society, morality, nationalism, fighting prowess, glory, love, sex, falling trees, the world, nature, the universe, animals, the gods, the supernatural, magic, etc, etc, etc! This kind of expansive cacophony needs lyric poetry to express itself in a comprehensible format, and lyric poetry needs a great mind and a great motivation to make itself written. Horace was perfectly placed for this. He had experience in war, peace and politics, in love and death, in poverty and wealth. He was highly educated in the Greek classics. He was close to the first Roman emperor's Prime Minister of state - Maecenas. Latin had virtually no great short poetry yet, and Horace was hired to create some. Otherwise, who would be motivated to write such things in an age without the internet or the printing press? We are lucky that he was motivated to write and we are lucky that the right man was hired for the job! His poetry became, along with Vergil's of course, the stamp of Romanness, and defined a civilization - a civilization that ours descends directly from. Horace's poetry was never forgotten, and was one of the most respected staples of a "proper education" right through the so-called "Dark" and Middle Ages, through the Renaissance, and well into the 20th Century! I do read Latin, but I highly recommend reading this stuff in English, since very few people read Latin well anymore. I like West's rhythmical, free verse. It is very convincing as English free verse, and it's giving you the Latin meaning very clearly. By all means, please do read it in Latin if you can! Then you can enjoy the poetical artistry of Horace directly. But even without Latin, West does a magnificent job of Englishing it. All people interested in poetry, literature, or Western Civilization generally should read and reread this book!

Horace (65-8 B.C.) is one of the most important and brilliant poets of the Augustan Age of Latin literature whose influence on European literature is unparalleled. Steeped in allusion to contemporary affairs, Horace's verse is best read in terms of his changing relationship to the public sphere. While the Odes are subtle and allusive, the Epodes are robust and coarse in their celebrations of sex and tirades against political leaders. This edition also includes the Secular Hymn and Suetonius's "Life of Horace." About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Language NotesText: English, Latin (translation)From the Back CoverHoace's Odes- allusive and exquisitely crafted poems of politics and the all-too-fleeting pleasure of friendship, love and wine- are without parallel in their influence on European literature. The Epodes, by contrast, are most notable for their coarse abuse and lively obscenity.About the AuthorDavid West is Professor Emeritus of Latin at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow. Quintus Horatius Flaccus (Horace) was born in late 65 BC at Venusia in Apulia. He served on the staff of Brutus' army until the defeat at Philippi in 42 BC. On returning to Rome he found his father dead and his property confiscated but obtained a secretarial post in the treasury. His poetry impressed Virgil, who introduced him to the great patron Maecenas in 38 BC. From now on Horace had no financial worries and moved freely among the leading poets and statesmen of Rome; after Virgil's death in 19 BC he was virtually Poet Laureate.