PROPERTIANA*  

1.2.9–14  
aspice quos summittat humus f o r m o s a colores,  
   ut ueniant hederae sponte sua melius,  
surgat et in solis formosior arbutus antris,  
et sciat indocilis currere lympha uias.  
litora natiiuis † persuadent † picta lapillis,  
et volucres nulla dulcius arte canunt.

The superiority of natural to artificial beauty.

In line 9 *formosa* can hardly be right; the context demands not just a ‘beautiful’ spot but a spot which owes its beauty to no artificial tending. *Formosa* looks very like an erroneous anticipation of *formosior* in line 11; if so, the word which it has displaced need have borne little resemblance to it. Hence Palmer’s *neglecta* is just as possible as negative phrases like *non uersa, non iussa, non fossa, non culta, non mota* (all of which have been proposed). Another possibility might be *deserta*; in favour of this I adduce (in addition to *solis* in line 11) 1.20.35 f. *nulli pendebant debita curae/roscida deserta poma sub arboribus*.

In line 13 to replace *persuadent* one’s first inclination is to look for another verb beginning with *per* or *prae* or *re* (e.g. *per-gaudent, praefulgent, resplendent*, all of which, among others, have been proposed), but perhaps we should rather consider the prepositional phrase *per se* (of things which are as they are ‘natura sua, nulla alia re adhibita’, ThLL 10.1.1161.24); cf. 2.29.30 *heu quantum per se candida forma valet!* Scaliger and Heinsius conjectured *per se dent*, but this requires the further change of *natiiuis lapillis* to *natiiuos lapillos*. So I suggest *per se sunt*. At 3.14.31 *nec quae sint faci(l)es nec quae dent uerba roganti* (on the reading see J. L. Butri-

*) The following modern editions are referred to: A. Palmer (London/Dublin 1880); H. E. Butler and E. A. Barber (Oxford 1933); P. J. Enk (Book 1, Leiden 1946); W. A. Camps (Cambridge: Book 2, 1967; Book 3, 1966); G. P. Goold (Loeb edition, 1990).
ca, CQ 47, 1997, 183), dent has been corrupted to sint (but perhaps by perseveration); at Anth. 26.9 R. I have emended dent to sunt (CM 47, 1996, 255, where I adduce further instances of the confusion of initial d and s).

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1.18.25–28
omnia consueui timidus perferre superbae
iussa neque arguto facta dolore queri;
pro quo diuini fontes et frigida rupes
et datur inculto tramite dura quies.

Fontes or montes (Heinsius)? The latter has naturally attracted editors both on its own merits and in view of such parallels as 1.20.13 duros montes et frigida saxa. But diuini remains ‘a ludicrous epithet’ (Butler/Barber, for an unconvincing defence see F. Leo, Ausgewählte Kleine Schriften [Rome 1960], 2, 199 f.). Many suggestions have been made for its replacement; I add another, which at least has the merit of being closer to the paradosis than any other I know: diri mi montes. For dirus ‘de locis, terris’ see ThLL 5.1.1272.27 ff. The dative mi is very acceptable with datur.

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2.6.31–32
a gemat in terris ista qui protulit arte
orgia sub tacita condita laetitia!

orgia Ruhnken: iurgia codd.

An imprecation on the man who revealed the mysteries of sex in erotic pictures.

In terris cannot be equivalent to sub terris (2.18.27, 3.5.39), but must mean ‘on earth’ (as at 2.17.9), which gives feeble sense. The most favoured conjecture has been Fontein’s in tenebris, ‘in the world of darkness’ (hardly ‘struck with blindness’, as Goold). Heinsius’s aeternum (adverb, as at 3.8.38) is seldom mentioned nowadays, but it may well be right; for aeternum used in connexion with the great sinners of the underworld cf. Verg. Aen. 6.617 f.
sede aeternumque sedebit/infelix Theseus; as for the supposed corruption, at Curt. 4.1.22 terrenis has become aeternis in our manuscripts. Then ista will have to be changed; in any case it is a vague and unconvincing word. In preference to Heinsius’s ficta I suggest incesta (a word used by Propertius at 3.11.39); for elision at this point of the Propertian hexameter see M. Platnauer, Latin Elegiac Verse (Cambridge 1951), 83 ad fin.

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2.25.21–22

\textit{tu quoque, qui pleno fastus assumis amore, credule, nulla diu femina pondus habet.}

‘Who put on airs because your love is feasted full’ is Camps’s translation of the \textit{qui} clause; he adds “It is hard to judge the exact value of \textit{pleno} with \textit{amore}”. I find it hard to give \textit{pleno} any value at all, and would replace it with \textit{prono}, ‘because your love-affair is proceeding smoothly’ (OLD 7); the same sense is expressed in 27 below by \textit{flatus in amore secundi}. The same emendation (of \textit{plena} to \textit{prona}) has been made by Shackleton Bailey at Manil. 2.470 and by Delz at Sil. 3.532.

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2.32.23–24

\textit{nuper enim de te nostras me laedit ad aures rumor, et in tota non bonus urbe fuit.}

‘A rumour in mine ears wounds me’ is described by Butler/Barber as “an odd, but intelligible phrase”; I agree with those who think it an intolerable collocation. Of numerous conjectures, the most promising seems to me to be \textit{male} for \textit{me}; then, with the minimum of further change, we can obtain satisfactory sense by writing \textit{nostras male \langle lae\rangle serat aures}. The use of the pluperfect instead of the aorist is frequent in Propertius; see Butler/Barber on 1.8.36, Enk on 1.3.17.

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3.7.57–60
‘di maris Aegaei quos sunt penes aequora, uenti,
et quaecumque meum degrauat unda caput,
quo rapitis miserōs primae lanuginis annos?
attulimus longas in freta uestra manus.’

Last words of a young man drowning at sea.

Editors adduce 2.2.5 fulua coma est longaeque manus, where long hands are a mark of beauty. But in our passage we want not a mark of beauty but a mark of youthfulness (like primae lanuginis), such as long hair; hence the attraction of Oudendorps’s change of manus to comas. But how could comas have become manus? I suggest that the change was due to someone’s recollection of 2.2.5; because of that passage, instead of writing comas he has written manus, which is the noun which there has the epithet longus. It is quite a common, but insufficiently recognized, phenomenon for a scribe who has to repeat one of two words previously written to repeat the wrong one.

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3.21.31–32
aut spatia annorum aut longa interualla profundi
lenibunt tacito uulnera nostra sinu.

To cure himself of love, the poet contemplates moving to Athens, where the passage of time or ‘the sea’s far-sundering will ease the wounds that linger in my silent breast’ (Goold). Camps is justified in objecting that it is hard to find a useful meaning for tacito in this context, and therefore accepts Heinsius’s change of sinu to situ, ‘the growth or deposit that forms on things left long undisturbed’, tacito being used of this ‘gradual imperceptible process’. This seems to me to be far-fetched; I should rather change tacito to placido, used proleptically, ‘leaving my heart at peace’; the p/t interchange is one of the commonest.

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4.3.7–10

*te modo uiderunt† iteratos† Bactra per ortus te modo munito Persicus hostis equo, hibernique Getae, pictoque Britannia curru, tunsus et Eoa decolor aqua.*

8 Persicus Dousa fil. : hericus codd.
10 tunsus Housman : ustus codd.

We should start from the assumption that *ortus* is genuine, because it is well attested in the sense of ‘inhabitants of the east’ (OLD 2b), but *iteratos* makes no satisfactory sense with it. What is required is a characteristic, preferably one denoting some military activity corresponding to *munito equo* and *picto curru*; this requirement is not fulfilled either by Polster’s *mitratos* or by Barber’s *murratos*. It would be fulfilled by *<phar>etratos*, ‘quiver-bearing’; “Eastern peoples in general and the Bactrians in particular were famous for their archery”, says J. D. Morgan (CQ 36, 1986, 189), adducing Sil. 3.613 *uacuasque ostendent Bactra pharetras* and Sidon. Carm. 5.602 f. *possitisque pharetris… Bactra*; I add 4.6.81 below, *pharetris Eois* and Claud. 15.32 f. *pharetrata … Susa*. I take *per* in the sense of *inter* (cf. Morgan, l.c. 190), and the phrase *pharetratos per ortus* closely with the subject of the sentence, ‘Bactra in the quiver-bearing East’. Mounted archers are mentioned in connexion with Bactra at 66 below.

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