

Abstract: This paper focuses on ll. 15 f. of the preface to Sidonius' Panegyric addressed to the emperor Majorian (*carm.* 4). These lines, in which Sidonius assures he will not carp at Vergil and Horace, have been regarded as curious and peculiar. According to us, they can be explained on the basis of Ov. *trist.* 2.563 and Hor. *sat.* 2.1.39-42, where both Augustan poets defend themselves against the blame of writing satyric poetry, a genre congenial to Sidonius.

Keywords: Ovid, Horace, Satyric poetry, Majorian, Poetry's ambiguity.