

Three textual problems in the *Aegritudo Perdicae*

1) Nocturne

<i>roscida post radios aeternaque lumina solis</i>	
<i>nox tenebris discussa suis compresserat omnes</i>	190
<i>at non te, Perdica, umquam puer ille Cupido</i>	
<i>uel partem minimam patitur decerpere <somni></i>	192
<i>sed solum tenuit ueneranda te casus umbras †</i>	193
<i>continuus tollit pharetras ac tela furoris</i>	194
<i>et tecum uigilat per noctis tempora longa</i>	

H = ms. Harley 3685, XV sec. (British Library)

189 aeterna H: alterna *Baehrens* 192 somni *Bahrens* 193 solum te tenuit miserum totasque per umbras *Baehrens*: sed solus tenet et tenebrosa tectus in umbra *Riese*: sed solus tenuit miserum et bene tectus in umbra *Vollmer*: sed solus tenuit miserandum et tectus in umbra *Maehly*

... the dewy night, by its darkness, had chased away
and suppressed the last rays and the eternal light of the sun
But you, Perdica, that boy, Cupid, has yet never
allowed to snatch even the smallest portion of sleep,
but you alone he held ... and in the shadows...
he constantly raised the quiver and darts of his rage
and with you kept awake throughout the long nighttime... [transl. Hunt with some minor changes]

1a Verg. *Aen.* 4, 82-83 *sola domo maeret*

1b *teneo* abs.: Sen. *Thyestes* 551 *quos amor uerus tenuit tenebit*:

1c Ov. *met.*, 10, 368-9: *noctis erat medium, curasque et corpora somnus / soluerat; at uirgo Cinyreia peruigil igni/ carpitur.*

1d other repetitions in the poem: vv. 55-59; vv. 106-111 (*uigilat ... uigilantis*); vv. 145-147; vv. 206-208.

1e for *uigilans*, cf. also v. 111: *Pro, dolor! hoc scelus est soli uigilantis Amori.*

A possible solution: *solum te tenuit uigilantem et tectus in umbra* («you alone he kept awake, and hidden in the dark he constantly raised his quiver...»)

2) Amor vs Pudor (ἔρως vs αἰδώς)

<i>Stant duo diuersis pugnancia numina telis</i>	198
<i>ante toros, Perdica, tuos: Amor hinc, Pudor inde.</i>	
<i>Inde Cupido monet secreta referre furoris,</i>	200
<i>inde Pudor prohibet uocis exordia rumpi,</i>	
<i>† famamque surgentem reuocit neanillans †</i>	202
<i>ire iubet propriumque nefas exponere mentis</i>	
<i>uerbaque multa docet</i>	

202 famamque surgentem reuocit neanillans H; lacunam stat. Vollmer (“puto deesse plura, cum in fine uersus uideatur latere anhelans”); famam surgentem reuocet petit ille, sed ille Baehrens: flammamque urgentem reuocat negat alter, at alter Riese: famamque surgentem reuocat ratioque uacillans Barbasz: famaue surgentem reuocat ratione ille cauillans Maehly

There stood before your bed, Perdica, two godheads fighting
with different weapons: Love on this side, Restraint on that.
On the one side Cupid urged him to relate the secrets of his madness,
on the other Pudor prevented the beginning of his voice from breaking the silence...
... the Fame, rising... pulled back/restrained...
...ordered him to go and expose his sinful state of mind
and taught him many words... [transl. Hunt]

2a Ov. met. 7, 72-73 ante oculos ... Pietasque Pudorque / constiterant et uicta dabat iam terga Cupido; am. 1, 2, 31s.:Mens Bona ...et Pudor et castris quicquid Amoris obest
2b neanillans = a participle? (uacillans Barbasz, cauillans Maehly, anhelans Vollmer)
2c ille in fine v.: cfr. vv. 33, 79, 119

A possible solution: *flammam surgentem reuocat* <at non> minus ille...
(«Pudor prevented his voice from breaking the silence, and restrained his already growing passion: the other [Amor] though commanded him to go and expose his sinful state of mind, teaching him words... etc.)

3) Quaeritur fati genus...

<i>Quod superest, moriamur, <Amor>. Letumne bibamus?</i>	272
<i>Cur, miserande, petis frustra potare uenena?</i>	
<i>Iam fauces clausere uiam dirosque recusant</i>	
<i>in mortem latices. Ferro reseceamus amorem?</i>	275
<i>O demens †gladio! † quibus armis? quoue uigore?</i>	276
<i>quae manus ecce ualet librare in uulnera mortem?</i>	277
<i>Praecipitem iactare libet? Fors poena placebit...</i>	

272 <Amor> Bahrens: ait Riese 276 o demens! gladio? Mariotti: o demens iuuenis Watt: o demens! <fusus> La Penna: o demens adeo! Lapini 277 quae manus ecce ualet...? H: haec manus ecce ualet...? Baehrens: quae manus, ecce? ualet...? Vollmer: haec manus, ecce, ualet ...? Mariotti, Zurli

«Well, then, let us die, Love! Should we drink our destruction?
Why, pitiable one, do you seek, in vain, to swallow poison?
Already our throat has closed the way and refuses the dire
fluids that bring death. Should we cut out love with a knife?
O fool! With a sword? With what weapons or with what might
can this hand here fling death into wounds?
Does it satisfy to throw myself headlong? Perhaps the punishment will please...» [transl. Hunt]

3a Stat. Ach. 1, 937-938 thalamis haec tempora nostris? / hicne est ... hymen?; Theb. 7, 20 hicne tuus Gradiue furor?
11, 332-333 quo deinde redibit / uictor? in hosne sinus?

A possible solution: *quae manus – haecne? – ualet librare in uulnera mortem?* («which hand – this one? – is strong enough to put death into the wounds?»)