

OVID AND ANYTE

Ovid in *Metamorphoses* 10. 121 f. speaking about Cyparissus and his favorite stag says:

tu pabula cervum
ad nova, tu liquidi ducebas fontis ad undam,
tu modo texebas varios per cornua flores,
nunc eques in tergo residens huc laetus et illuc
mollia purpureis frenabas ora capistris.

Whereas Ovid in *Met.* 10. 103 f. seems to be chiefly adapting the Virgilian stag tale of *Aen.* 7. 483 f. (cf. Heyne's note on *Aen.* 7. 483), in the last two lines of the above passage he is clearly inspired by the charming epigram

of Anyte, *Anth. Pal.* 6. 312 (Gow-Page, *The Greek Anthology*, I, "Anyte" No. XIII):

Ἦνία δὴ τοι παῖδες ἐπὶ, τράγε, φοινικόμεντα
θέντες καὶ λασίῳ φιλὰ περὶ στόματι
ἵππια παιδεύουσι θεοῦ περὶ ναὸν ἄεθλα,
ὄφρ' αὐτοὺς ἐφορῇ νήπια τερπομένους.

This is an interesting example of the free manner in which Ovid used his sources. Moreover, it shows that he was acquainted with the work of Anyte, or some of it at least.

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