

Horace, *Iambi (Epodi) 11.19*

After sixty-six lines in praise of country life, the second of Horace's *Iambi* or *Epodi* breaks off unexpectedly, with an implied close-quotation mark, revealing that what came before was all spoken in the persona of a hypocritical money-lender (*I.* 2.67-70):

Haec ubi locutus faenerator Alfius,
iam iam futurus rusticus,
omnem redegit Idibus pecuniam,
quaerit Kalendis ponere. 70

In the eleventh poem of the collection, a less abrupt break-off ends the narrator's complaints to his friend Pettius (*I.* 19-22):

Ubi haec severus te palam laudaveram,
iussus abire domum ferebar incerto pede 20
ad non amicos heu mihi postis et heu
limina dura, quibus lumbos et infregi latus.

In comparing these two passages, I wonder why Horace would write *Haec ubi* in one and *Ubi haec* in the same *sedes* in the other. The meter of these odd-numbered lines is the same in both poems, iambic trimeter, though *Iamb* 11 inserts a hemiepes before the iambic dimeter in the even-numbered lines.

Since I can detect no point in such a trivial variation, I suspect that Horace wrote *Haec ubi* in both lines, and that a scribe normalized the word-order in the second passage (a case of *simplex ordo*), removing the metrical resolution (– uu u –) at the cost of what is (to my ears) an ugly elision. For what it's worth, Horace generally avoids eliding *ubi* in the *Odes* (only 2.13.33) and *Iambi* (only here, if at all), though he elides it freely in his hexameters.