

IVY ODE

by Rowan Allen Greer, III

The tradition of a Latin ode to be delivered at Class Day is what we may call an "ancient and honorable" one. Indeed it might even be considered part of a thread of continuity extending into the Middle Ages. The somewhat anachronistic nature of the Ivy Ode, however, does not in the opinion of this year's author mean that the ode should endeavor to copy any *particular* Latin style or form. This year's ode is, therefore, a departure from the usual Horatian Sapphics and offers as its only apology for this the reflection that it is, after all, in Latin. The metric structure of the ode is monostrophic and attempts to reproduce Pindar's use of dactylo-epitritic metre.

Strophe I

*Musa sublimis, moderatrix Solis
splendida pluviaeque felicitis fruge,
audi me incipientem carmen acclive,
dum conserere stirpem
hederae conor comitumque qui
gustant calicem prudentiae plene
quo loco planta crescit Lymphis madida,*

Strophe II

*Fota glebis. Imber acerbus arcus
feri pluvius solet nitentesque
flores Iustitiae. Da, supplico, nobis
haec praemia candida
aliquando quae Stephanus cepit
spectans Dominum, scandens ad optatum,
ad mare clarum gaudiique strepitus*

Strophe III

*Plenum, At accepit cruciatus imbris
letales lapidum. Nam iudices aures
inclusit populus; iam inciderunt tunc
ei truculentoque
Stephanum fervore necaverunt.
Quamvis moriens non mortuus vere,
gloriam divam vidit dixitque: "polos*

Strophe IV

*Et hiantes et hilares praestantis
nati magnificentia Dei cerno."
Sic imber pluviae vim tradit. Nos ergo
fac, imprecor, candidos
hederacea stephana fructus
florentis, optima Musa, gliscatque
concors haec planta frondibus vix sterilis.*