The Tomis Advertiser

Famous poet dies in exile

Tomis. Nuntius News Service - Publius Ovidius Naso, or Ovid, who was born 20 March, 43 BCE in Sulmo, east of Rome, died yesterday at the age of 60. He was born into an equestrian ranked family and was educated at Rome.

His father wished for him to study rhetoric with the ultimate goal of practicing law. However, after the death of his brother, Ovid renounced law and began his travels.

He travelled to Athens, Asia Minor, and Sicily. He also held some minor public posts, but quickly gave them up to pursue his poetry.

Early in his career, he was part of the circle centered around the patron Mesalla, but eventually found a place in the circle of Maecenas. He was married three times, and, from these marriages, had one daughter.

In 10 BC, the Amores, his famous love elegies, were published. That success was followed by the Heroides, Remedia Amoris, and Medicamina Faciei Feminse all in 5 BCE. Three years later, he published his Ars Amatoria, which in part brought him here.

After writing all that love poetry, Ovid spent 10 years working on his Metamorphoses, a monumental work of staggering genius. Its 15 books tell many stories of transformation and demonstrate his mastery of the epic dactylic hexameter meter.

He is survived by his 3rd wife, related to Paullus Fabius Maximus, and one daughter.

The reason Ovid came to us here on the Black sea has always been somewhat of a mystery. Why would Rome’s most famous poet move to Tomis?

By reading the poetry he has written during his stay here, the staff of the Advertiser ascertains two primary causes that he himself names for his presence among us: a carmen and an error.

The carmen is certainly his great Ars Amatoria, which offers love advice to men and women in the mood. It is quite delightful and a hit with all of us here, given 5 stars by our own reviewers.

As for the error, none of us know for sure. Some say that Ovid failed to act when he heard about a conspiracy against Caesar. Others suggest that he was involved in an illicit affair with a member of Caesar’s house.

All we can say is that this scandal will probably remain a hotly debated topic for years to come.