

# The Tomis Advertiser

P U B L I U S O V I D I U S N A S O : I N M E M O R I A M

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Started career under patronage of Valerius Messalla Corvinus, but eventually in the famed circle of Maecenas
- Wrote famous poetry such as: Amores, Heroides, Metamorphoses, and Ars Amatoria, which is part of the reason he lived here in Tomis
- Exiled from Rome in 8 CE because of a *carmen* and an *error*, according to his own writing
- Was the most prolific poet in recent memory, writing in more genres more successfully than anyone before him in Latin.

## GROTON & MAY STORIES FROM METAMORPHOSES

Phaëthon	1.747-779, 2.1-400
Jupiter and Io	1.568-746
Echo & Narcissus	3.339-510
Europa & the Bull	2.833-875
Myrmidons	7.614-660

## 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 *Medcamina Faciei Femineae* 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



Ovid working on his *Metamorphoses* before his arrival here in Tomis nine years ago

hexameter meter.

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

## EXILE MYSTERY AN ONGOING SCANDAL

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. ☞