

ZARA CHADHA : **Erotic Magic, Elegy, and Iambic in Horace's *Epodes*.**

This paper explores Horace's engagement with Latin love elegy through the motif of magic in *Epodes* 5 and 17. I argue that Horace's Canidia and the elegiac *puellae* are constructed in tandem as part of an ongoing dialogue between Horace's *Epodes* and early love elegy. Horace literalises the elegiac lovers' metaphorical characterisation of their mistress' beauty as magically enchanting to construct Canidia as a witch who controls her lovers with erotic magic. Through Canidia and the theme of magic in the *Epodes*, Horace uses elegy to define his iambic poetics and to demonstrate that love elegy is central to his development of the Roman iambic tradition.

Key-words :

Horace – Elegy – Iambic – Magic – Generic enrichment