

CHARON'S BOAT

inreligata ratis, numquam defessa carina,
it reedit in uastos semper onusta lacus;
illa rapit iuuenes prima florente iuuenta,
non oblita tamen †sed† repetitque senes.

Eleg. in Maecen. 5-8

MR. E. COURTNEY (*Phoenix* xxi [1967], 49) adopts Ellis's defence of *repetitque*, argues convincingly as a consequence that *sed* must be replaced by a verb, and claims: 'That verb can hardly have been any other than *stat*.' He continues: 'This will mean that Charon's boat, having ferried across the young, does not remain tied up at the quay forgetful of the old, but goes back for them.' The difficulty of *que* in the sense of *sed* in the line as reconstituted is defended by a reference to Housman's note on Manilius, 1. 877. Still, the proposed line, *non oblita tamen stat, repetitque senes*, does not seem to be clear without a pause after *stat*, so that the reader will construe *non* with *stat* but not with *repetit*. This gives a very awkward rhythm indeed.

There is, however, an alternative monosyllabic verb: *nat*. This will give the sense: 'not forgetting, however, Charon's boat sails and returns for the old'. The line then reads easily, as the rhythm is natural and indicates the sense. Furthermore the cause of the corruption becomes crystal-clear: *nat* lost its initial consonant after the final *n* of *tamen*; the scribe, noticing that the resultant *at* destroyed the metre, restored the metre, and left what seemed to be the sense unchanged by substituting the synonym *sed*.

University College, Dublin

J. A. RICHMOND