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Self-Praise in Horace

Literary self-praise in Horace's poetry is found only after the middle of his poetic career; it is usually ironic or humorous, and consistently downplays his achievements, sometimes suggesting they are owed to other poets or the Muse(s). In his final works (*Epistles 2* and *Ars Poetica*) Horace even suggests that he is not a 'real' poet and takes on the role of poetic tutor instead, again with some irony and humour. This modesty about himself fits Horace's general advocacy of moderation in all things.