Stylistic Registers in Juvenal

J. G. F. POWELL

Juvenal is commonly said to have adopted the 'grand' or 'high' style. In this paper it is argued that statements to this effect are misleading. Over-schematic contrasts between Juvenal and Horace are deprecated, in favour of a recognition of the satiric qualities of both writers. It is contended that Juvenal's references to contemporary or earlier epic, important as they are, are all in the nature of parody, and that a proper appreciation of the difference in style between Silver Latin epic and Juvenal's satire would obviate an over-serious view of Juvenal. Some passages in Juvenal that are commonly alleged to be programmatic statements about his own style are then discussed, with the aim of showing that they do not constitute a proclamation that he will adopt the 'grand' style, or indeed any style foreign to the genre of satire. An attempt is then made to define some of the different things that are meant by 'style', and to distinguish in particular the concept of 'register' from other ingredients of literary style. Against the background of Axelson's work on stylistic register in Latin poetry, it is argued that Juvenal's style is not 'grand' in terms of stylistic register, except when he is parodying epic, and that his passages of epic parody generally include some clear stylistic incongruity which reveals the ironical purpose behind them.

It is commonly stated that Juvenal adopted the 'high' or 'grand' style; indeed, it is sometimes presupposed as a fact, and explanations are looked for. But before one attempts to explain a phenomenon, one ought to

¹ The first major scholarly treatment of this question is apparently that of Scott (1927); see also Anderson (1961), Kenney (1963), and Bramble (1974: 164-73). In (I think) my second

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make sure that one has defined and observed it correctly. One should first ask what the high style is (and indeed whether it is one thing or several), and then what precise use Juvenal is alleged to have made of it, before the statement can even be tested against the evidence of the text. I shall argue that, at least in its simple form as just stated, the proposition that Juvenal adopted the high style is misleading. The quest for stylistic categories which are not merely legitimate (whether in ancient or modern terms), but also helpful in enabling us to read the text of Juvenal in an enlightened and appreciative way, is not by any means an easy one. While I have certainly encountered people (particularly young cynics in the late 1980s and '90s) who appreciate the tone of Juvenal's satires with immediate and genuine gusto, without ever having worried much about precise definitions of stylistic features, it is equally certain that the imposition of inappropriate categories will impede reception and stifle understanding. So I think the attempt to be rather more precise about these things is worth while.

This matter of high style is not the only mismatch between my own experience of Juvenal and what I read in some of the secondary literature about him, but it is one of the most persistent. I am seriously quite puzzled as to how any competent Latinist could read even a single satire of Juvenal all the way through, except just possibly the Tenth, and come out thinking that this author is a consistent practitioner of the high or grand style; and yet that is what people say. For an explanation of this, I am tempted to look for factors outside the text. Juvenal does, indeed, occupy a rather peculiar position within the twentieth-century canon of Latin authors. He is the only classical verse writer after Ovid who is generally accorded the first rank, and whose works figure largely in school and undergraduate syllabuses, at least in this country (these observations may be Anglocentric). Hence he tends to be accorded the reverence due to a premier cru classic, while the serious poetry of his time is neglected. The modest expansion in recent years of specialist interest in Silver Age epic and tragedy has not substantially affected the position, because those who deal seriously in Silver epic are often not the same as those who work on Juvenal. It is relatively uncommon for Juvenal to be seen in proper perspective within his period. The genuine high style in Silver Latin poetry is to be found in Seneca, Lucan and Statius. The style of Juvenal seems to

term as an Oxford undergraduate, John Bramble set me to write an essay on 'Juvenal's reasons for adopting the high style'. This paper may be said to represent the mature growth from a seed of puzzlement sown in that tutorial. I am grateful to Professor Susanna Morton Braund for comments on a late draft of this paper. Even later, Professor Braund's edition of Satires 1-5 (Braund (1996)) came to hand, and it was possible to take it into account in the final stage of revision: see especially the comments at the very end of this paper.

me far different from this and impossible to mistake for it; but that is clearly not how it has seemed to others.

The waters may be muddied by the fact that both Lucan and Statius cultivate striking verbal effects, and both show tendencies towards a bitterly ironical tone: features which may seem to bring them closer to satire in general and to Juvenal in particular. But in the end I would wish to maintain a firm distinction, though with all due sense of the inadequacy and slipperiness of the categories: Lucan and Statius are basically serious, though not by any means always solemn; Juvenal is basically comic, though not necessarily always frivolous. Indeed, given that contemporary epic did contain passages of ironical denunciation, there would be no reason why Juvenal should not parody those along with the rest. In such a case the reader would indeed be faced with a difficult task in determining the tone, if it were not for the fact that Juvenal usually sooner or later undercuts the dramatic pose.

Genre and literary tradition are universally acknowledged to be important for the study of any Roman author; and while Juvenal's relations with other authors of his period may receive insufficient attention, his work is very commonly treated as part of an organic tradition of Roman satire, and the relations between his work and that of Lucilius, Horace and Persius are often studied in detail. While a study of this aspect is indeed necessary for a proper appreciation of Juvenal, this approach has its dangers too. Perhaps paradoxically, it may lead to an exaggerated view of the differences between these four authors, while the generic similarities may be taken for granted.

On a first inspection, it may well seem that Juvenal has little in common with the pedestrian Horace of the *Satires* and *Epistles*; he can easily seem 'high' by comparison. But the similarities between Horace's hexameter style and Juvenal's, and the markedly satirical and un-epic qualities of the latter, can easily be underplayed.

Take in particular the question of metrical technique. 'The central fact about the verse technique of Juvenal,' says Courtney, 'is that it is very different from that used by Horace in his Satires.' But let us look at Courtney's own very useful statistics. We are told, for example, that Juvenal has about 130 monosyllabic line-endings, 'much the same proportion as Horace', as against the far more sparing use of this feature in Virgil and its almost complete absence from Silver epic. As for polysyllabic endings, 'Horace Satires has 43 such cases, much the same proportion as Juvenal'.

² Courtney (1980: 49). On the metrical technique of Horace see Nilsson (1952), from whom the selection of diagnostic features is taken. Braund (1996: 29–30) deals with metre along roughly the same lines as Courtney.

(In this case the Virgilian proportion seems to be comparable.) Courtney gives us a scale of frequency of elision, in which it appears that Juvenal is more sparing with elision than Horace in the Satires (though we are not told how much more); but Virgil in the Aeneid uses more elision and Ovid in the Metamorphoses less than either. With the facts as they are, it is very difficult to know what stylistic interpretation to put on the statistics for elision, but certainly the difference between Juvenal and Horace does not seem to stand out. The details given on enjambment are also ambiguously significant. The statistic for atque ending a line (two in Virgil, four in Juvenal, 29 in Horace) may merely indicate a Horatian idiosyncrasy. Et at line-end, absent from Virgil, is said to occur six times in Juvenal, 12 in Horace; Courtney comments that Juvenal 'stands far behind Horace'; in fact he is just as different from Virgil as from Horace, and it could indeed be argued that the difference between the presence of a feature and its complete absence may be more significant than the difference between twelve occurrences and six. On the other hand, Juvenal takes more liberties than Horace in his use of monosyllabic prepositions at lineend and of relative pronouns in the same position; the former do not occur at all in Horace, of the latter Juvenal has 34 as against 15 in Horace ('a significantly higher proportion' according to Courtney).

Juvenal has fewer pauses at 'unusual' places in the line than Horace, but at the same time significantly more than Virgil. Although on first impression Juvenal may seem more regular than Horace, every now and again he produces a line-ending which clearly signals that we are in the world of satire and not in that of epic. Nescis | quem tua simplicitas risum vulgo moveat, cum | exigis . . . (13.35) is as odd as anything in Horace, if not odder (doubtless the dislocation of rhythm suits the meaning); Horace can provide no parallel for 3.273 ad cenam si | intestatus eas (the word order highlights ad cenam; the unusual rhythm may serve to reinforce this, and the combination of enjambment with hiatus in si | intestatus presumably suggests a more deliberate enunciation than would be normal). In two respects, Juvenal makes use of distinctively poetic features which are not used by Horace: hiatus within the line, and spondaic line-endings. Courtney's discussion shows sufficiently that the great majority of these are used for special effect and have a clear nuance of parody.

From all this, it is really not clear why the differences between Juvenal's metrical practice and Horace's should be treated as the 'central fact', while the similarities between them are laid on one side. It is a question of emphasis, and there is one fact that needs emphasizing more than any stylistic differences between Juvenal and Horace: the fact that they are both satirists, and that they both do some things (metrically and otherwise) that on the whole only satirists do.

The 'satiric tradition' was never self-contained and self-perpetuating. Braund (1992a: 3-4) has aptly characterized it as 'parasitic'; it was so both in relation to the established classics (the same for us as for Juvenal; mostly Virgil, Horace and Ovid) and in relation to the latest poetic fashions. From the earliest times, satire borrowed the metre of epic and, to some extent, its ways of forcing language into metre: potentially an act of parody in itself; cf. Braund (1996: 21 and 24), who however stops short of admitting that it is parody, and calls it 'counterpoint' instead. Everyone agrees that at least some of Juvenal's references to epic are in the nature of parody (see e.g. Highet (1951: 375ff.); Marache (1964: 476); Cèbe (1966: 320ff.); Townend (1973: 154ff.). Some have distinguished two different purposes for this: ridicule of a commonplace and unworthy object by dignifying it in elevated language, or ridicule of the conventions and mannerisms of epic itself (Lelièvre (1958); Romano (1979)). This is all very fine. But not everyone has been prepared to go the whole way and to say, as I would be inclined to, that every reference to epic in Juvenal is parodic. Part of the problem is that the word 'parody' is used in different ways. The word παρωδία no doubt originally referred to direct parodic imitation of an identifiable passage of some more serious author (there are plenty of wellknown examples, including some in Juvenal) and some modern writers seem to confine it to this sense; but we need a word for more general 'sending up' of epic or tragic diction, and there seems to be no objection in modern usage to employing 'parody' in this wider sense as well.

On the other hand, if all that is meant by Juvenal's supposed high style is precisely this tendency to indulge in epic parody (in this wider sense), then the categories are misleading. Epic parody does not constitute the high style. In any case, Juvenal's satires are not full-blown epic parodies; not even the main narrative of Satire 4 comes into this category, for however much of Statius' *De Bello Germanico* lies behind this satire, the style never remains in the realm of high epic for more than a few lines at a time.³ In general, Juvenal's epic parody typically comes in fairly short

³ The narrative begins with parody of an epic scene-setting, lines 37–46. From 46 quis enim to 56 ne pereat is virtually pure prose (though there are doubtless one or two parodic touches; e.g. the singular for plural multo delatore may be one such). Then the style rises again to the level of epic, from 56 iam letifero to the end of the fisherman's speech ipse capi voluit (69), though we shall note the pointedly incongruous obsonia at line 64. Sustained imitation of high epic style is largely abandoned thereafter. Isolated epic mannerisms are employed, but usually in a ludicrous fashion (107 Montani venter, 108 the grandiose hyperbaton matutino... amomo immediately deflated by quantum vix redolent duo funera, 109–10 saevior... aperire, a type of brachylogy brought into poetic usage by Horace and much beloved by the Silver poets; and so on); and there are a number of phrases which strike this reader at least as very clearly prosaic or conversational in tone (e.g. 78 anne aliud tum praefecti?, 98 unde fit ut malim fraterculus esse gigantis, 106 et tamen improbior saturam scribente cinaedo, 128–9 hoc defuit unum Fabricio...).

bursts (I mean, of course, what would appear to be short bursts to one reading, or listening, at normal speed), and is cast into relief by the contrast with the surrounding style, which is very much not that of epic.

Even so, some have asserted that Juvenal adopted the epic manner, or something less well defined called the grand style, not for purposes of parody but with a serious poetic or at least rhetorical and moralizing aim (Scott (1927); Bramble (1974); (1982a)). We are told that the Roman vices attacked by Juvenal had reached epic proportions and therefore demanded epic treatment. Or Juvenal is alleged to have aimed to supplant a supposedly played-out epic tradition from its privileged place in the hierarchy of genres (Anderson (1962: 284); Braund (1992a: 43); (1996: 22-3)). Such diagnoses, based as they presumably are on an interpretation of Juvenal's own words in Satire 1, must be regarded with caution. In the first place, clearly, Juvenal's programmatic statements, such as they are, are themselves part of the satire and must be taken in that spirit. In the second place, it is not clear that these interpretations accurately represent what Juvenal's words actually claim about his own work. In the first paragraph of Satire 1, and then again in lines 52-4, he does, indeed, ridicule contemporary epic writers as a rhetorical foil for his own writing, but he says nothing directly about transferring their style into satire, nor about any comparison between the material of satire and that of epic, nor about supplanting epic from its position. All these ideas have been imported by interpreters; but there was no need to do this, if only the essentially facetious tone of Juvenal's apologia had been recognized. All that is actually said is (to paraphrase) 'Everyone else is at the writing game: comedy, elegy, tragedy, epic — the lot. (15) Why shouldn't I have a go as well? (19) But I have decided that my field will be satire. Why? (30) Because it's difficult not to write satire with Rome as it is. (51) The iniquities of modern Rome are worthy of Horace's pen. Would you prefer me to write about the deeds of Hercules? (79) I may be no poet but my indignation will see me through. There has been material for satire since the world began, but never more than now . . .'. Explicitly Juvenal claims only to follow Lucilius and Horace; epic is no more than the rejected alternative. Of course, this might have been the prelude to a consistently epic-style narrative of contemporary Roman misdeeds, but what follows in the first satire, and in most of the others with the obvious exception of the fourth, is not even narrative, but argumentative conversational discourse — in fact sermo.

The foregoing remarks have been preliminary to my main purpose in this paper, which is to enquire into the ways in which a detailed study of Juvenal's language might help to resolve this question of his seriousness or, as I would contend, absence of seriousness. But first, it is necessary to clear away a possible objection. Has not Juvenal himself told us that he will adopt the grand style? Many have thought so. In particular, attention has been drawn to a famous passage near the end of Satire 6, one of the three most commonly quoted allegedly programmatic statements in Juvenal.⁴

Juvenal has alleged that mothers, in contemporary Rome, poison their children. He turns aside from the narration to counteract possible disbelief on the part of the audience, in the following words:

Fingimus haec, altum Satura's sumente cothurnum, scilicet, et finem egressi legemque priorum grande Sophocleo carmen bacchamur hiatu montibus ignotum Rutulis caeloque Latino?

Nos utinam vani...

The interpreters take this to be a proclamation about style.⁶ But this is surely not right. It is about the credibility of the subject-matter. Juvenal says (to paraphrase): 'I suppose you think I'm making this up? I suppose you think this is the stuff of Greek tragedy, not satire? I suppose you think I'm overstepping the limits of the genre and giving you a grand Sophoclean performance, unknown in Italy? I only wish you were right...' The crucial word is the ironical scilicet, which qualifies the whole sentence, and is immediately countered by nos utinam vani 'I only wish my words had no substance'. The implication, then, to spell it out phrase by phrase, is that Juvenal is not making it up; this is not the stuff of Greek tragedy; he is not overstepping the limits of the genre; he is not giving a grand Sophoclean performance unknown in Italy; he is not 'vanus', but is telling the plain truth. To take these words as asserting that Juvenal is overstep-

⁴ The others are 1.85–6 and 1.170–1. The former, the famous passage containing the word farrago, I have myself discussed (Powell (1987)) and hope to have shown that it is not as directly programmatic as it is usually supposed to be. The latter is Juvenal's claim to attack the dead: experiar quid concedatur in illos quorum Flaminia tegitur cinis atque Latina. Contrary to the usual belief, this claim, genuine enough in itself (especially if taken with reference to the dead Domitian in satire 4), is neither exclusive nor exhaustive. There is in fact some evidence for living victims, or at any rate the evidence is not all unambiguously for dead ones; see Highet (1954: 291–2), Ferguson (1987). The dogma that Juvenal flogs only dead horses, like some other dogmas attacked in this paper, has had an adverse effect on criticism and appreciation of the satires, and it is refreshing to realize that, in its extreme form, it is not justified by the evidence.

⁵ The capital S is deliberate; it is a personification.

⁶ Scott (1927: 6); Bramble (1974: 165; 1982: 598); cf. also Anderson (1962: 152), Rudd (1986: 107-9), Morford (1972). Smith (1989: 811-23) rightly sees the problem with these interpretations. If he had been more radical in refuting them, this part of my paper would have been rendered unnecessary.

ping the limits of the genre and is adopting a tragic style, is clean contrary to the rhetoric of the passage.

A similar rhetorical move occurs in Satire 4 when Juvenal calls upon the Muse to narrate the story of Domitian's council: non est cantandum, res vera agitur. 'No need to sing: this is what happened in real life.' The proclamation, if proclamation it is, is that this will be the plain truth told in plain unadorned narrative. Now, of course, this disclaimer is immediately followed by a Tale of a Turbot which obviously isn't true, or at least is not the plain unvarnished truth, and is told (at least initially) in what the densest reader could see to be a sustained parody of epic style. That is a comic incongruity, and something of the same sort is also going on in this passage of the sixth satire.

Here, Juvenal's rejection of tragic invention and fable is immediately followed by a direct parody, not actually of tragic style, but of tragic content. Apparently in order to underline the claim that this is the plain truth, Juvenal makes Pontia, who was, it seems, a real murderess, not merely confess but shout her confession (6.638): sed clamat Pontia 'feci, confiteor, puerisque meis aconita paravi, | quae deprensa patent; facinus tamen ipsa peregi'. It is not realistic to suppose that murderesses commonly spoke to that effect. Her brazen unrepentance is being exaggerated, but there is more than that. Murderesses do sometimes speak to that effect in tragedy; for example, Medea at the climax of Seneca's play of that name, though for all we know Juvenal may have had in mind some even closer parallel in a play now lost to us. The fateful word feci is there, twice (990-1); in fact, Medea shows a twinge of remorse, but not so Pontia. Further, at a stage of the action when Medea has disposed of one son but has not yet started on the second, Jason, wishing to be put out of his suspense, says to her Iam perage coeptum facinus (Juvenal: facinus tamen ipsa peregi). Again: Juvenal8, incredulous, asks Pontia whether she really poisoned two sons at one meal; to which she is made to reply (6.642): septem, si septem forte fuissent. Compare, for the content, Seneca, Medea 1010-1, ut duos perimam, tamen | nimium est dolori numerus angustus meo. At this point Juvenal gives in and says he will believe the tragedians

⁷ She is mentioned as such by Martial; references in Courtney (1980: ad loc.).

⁸ I make no apology for using the name 'Juvenal' to refer to the person who speaks in the satires, even when that person happens to be conducting an imaginary dialogue with some other character. It was always the tradition of Roman satire that the satirist represented himself as speaking *in propria persona*, whether in monologue or in dialogue. The modern use of the rather ill-defined literary-critical term 'persona' carries a danger of obscuring this fact (cf. Braund (1996: 2)). It can, doubtless, be useful for pointing out the distinction between the writer's literary self-portrayal and his ordinary 'off-stage' personality; of course, in Juvenal's case we know virtually nothing about the latter.

after all. One would have thought that the humour of this imaginary interchange was hardly mistakeable, black though it is; and the *fingimus haec?* lines are there to heighten it, just as res vera agitur heightens the humour of the tall story in Satire 4.

From the stylistic point of view, indeed, there is a considerable contrast between Juvenal's Pontia and her counterpart in genuine tragedy. Seneca's Medea speaks with interlaced hyperbaton; Pontia speaks ordinary Latin. Her words, despite the possible verbal reminiscence of Seneca (containing only the merest hint of tragic diction), are not above the stylistic level of everyday prose. But they are reminiscent of Medea in tone and subject-matter, and in terms of content Pontia makes the kind of speech that could be made only in tragedy, not in real life. The incongruity between the content (high tragic horror) and the style (everyday and nonchalant) is part of the satirical effect. Juvenal has told us that we are not in the world of tragedy, and that things like this now happen in ordinary life. He has reinforced the idea by a deliberate use of ordinary, uncoloured language. Anything further from a wholesale adoption of tragic style would be difficult to imagine. Yet people still talk of Juvenal overstepping the limits of the genre.

The advocates of altitude also base part of their case on the imagery used by Juvenal in Satire 1 to describe his writing, which, as John Bramble rightly pointed out, is of a kind often used by serious poets to describe their own poetry. At the beginning Juvenal refers to Lucilius, the founder of the genre, using a chariot-driving image (1.19): cur tamen hoc potius libeat decurrere campo | per quem magnus equos Auruncae flexit alumnus... In summing up at the end of the satire, he states that in the present age vice has reached its highest point, and apparently addresses himself (1.149) in the words utere velis, totos pande sinus. And in the concluding dialogue with the cautious interlocutor, satire is envisaged as a battle (not unnaturally, since it involves attacking people). Lucilius, as if with drawn sword, roars in the heat of his anger (1.165): ense velut stricto quotiens Lucilius ardens | infremuit; and Juvenal is to consider well before he goes into the fray (1.168): tecum prius ergo voluta | haec animo ante tubas: galeatum sero duelli | paenitet. Chariots, sails, battles: not only are these images common in poetry (and high oratory), but the language here is also poetic: equos flexit, the paraphrase magnus Auruncae alumnus, ense stricto, even the archaic duelli. The trouble is that the stylistic register of this language is altogether above the normal level in Juvenal's satires. Ensis and duellum are nowhere else used by him. If these images are really meant to raise expectations about the kind of style that we are in future to expect from Juvenal, those expectations are doomed to disappointment. The truth is, rather, that this particular context of talking about his own work has inspired Juvenal to parody the style in which serious poets generally talk about *their* own work. If this is the case, it should not necessarily be taken to have any wider implications. The content of the passages is programmatic, but there is no prima-facie reason to suppose that their style also is.

Furthermore, since in the first and third passages the grandiose language is linked in each case with the mention of Lucilius, one may possibly suspect some particular influence from that quarter. It has been held that Juvenal in the first satire misrepresented Lucilius and made him out to be much more like Juvenal himself than he actually was (Bramble (1974), developing a suggestion of Anderson (1961)). I do not think we have sufficient evidence on which to convict Juvenal of this. What we do know is that there was plenty of epic parody in Lucilius, and Professor Petersmann has reminded us that epic and tragic parody was a vital ingredient in Latin satire from the earliest times. There was, at any rate, nothing particularly original in Juvenal's pervasive use of this technique. Juvenal is often said to have deviated from the gentler and more urbane standard set by Horace, but it could just as well be argued that Horace was the deviant, and that Juvenal's style was a true reversion to the Lucilian model; or, alternatively, that both Juvenal and Horace were equally like Lucilius, but imitated different aspects of his writing. Such judgements on literary history should be made, if at all, only with great caution, given that we do not possess all the relevant texts.

This leaves the second passage, a mere five words: utere velis, totos pande sinus. A grand image, certainly, but surely a hackneyed one in the literary circles of the time, as we may see, for example, from comparison with a Pliny letter often quoted in this context (8.4.5 immitte rudentes, pande vela, ac si quando alias, toto ingenio vehere), noting in particular Pliny's self-conscious parenthesis 'cur enim non ego quoque poetice cum poeta?', which immediately follows, but tends to be left out by commentators on Juvenal who quote the passage. Given that even Pliny could not use this well-worn image without a certain irony, it stretches the imagination to believe that Juvenal's use of the same image, in a satirical context, is not also ironical. The satirist's hoisting of sails is at most a facetious mimicry of the orator's or poet's. Kenney (1962: 33) says of this passage: '... these phrases are rhetorical claptrap, and are obviously meant to be read as such' (cf. Smith (1989: 814 and note 6)).

In sum, Juvenal has not told us in advance what style we are to expect from him; and the only way to find out more about Juvenal's style is to look and see. But what, in this context, is 'style'? This question may seem Socratic, but it is, I think, capable of a more analytical answer than has sometimes been provided. I apologize in advance for the rather general

and theoretical nature of what follows next, but I think it is necessary in the interests of clarity. Inevitably, also, I shall be going over points already made by other contributors to this volume.

There are at least five different things that can be referred to by the word 'style' (this analysis is not, of course, meant to be exhaustive). First, there is the bread and butter of rhetoric: tricks of sentence construction such as tricolon, anaphora, asyndeton and the rest; figures of speech or thought such as similes and metaphors; and forms of argument such as exempla, praeteritio or anticipatio. The occurrence of these in Juvenal has been usefully documented, principally in the dissertation of De Decker (1913) entitled Juvenalis Declamans, in Courtney's introduction (Courtney (1980)) and in Braund (1996: 19-21 and 27-9). De Decker's treatment, still often cited, needs to be used with caution. He does not distinguish sufficiently between generalized rhetorical features and specifically declamatory ones, i.e. those that belong to the specialized environment of the rhetorical schools.9 These schools, it should be noticed, are treated by Juvenal with profound disrespect, and the tendency to see them as the key to his work (apart from their general educational influence on firstcentury Roman culture) seems to me to be yet another scholarly illusion. De Decker is also prone to criticize Juvenal for tasteless hyperbole, in passages where one would have thought the exaggeration was clearly made deliberately for satirical effect (see e.g. his discussions of 10.190ff., 15.51ff.).

It is a mistake to suppose that rhetorical vehemence and the use of rhetorical figures in itself constitutes the grand style. At the very least, grand rhetorical style should be distinguished from grand poetic style. The former is natural in prose; the idea that it can be transferred unchanged into verse is not without its problems. The attempt to manipulate anaphora, asyndeton, accumulation and the rest in verse can sometimes result in a clearly prosaic effect. Simple examples of this may be found on occasions when Juvenal's sentences (deliberately for comic effect) outrun the metre, as in 2.145ff. et Capitolinis generosior et Marcellis | et Catuli Paulique minoribus et Fabiis et | omnibus ad podium spectantibus, his licet ipsum | admoveas cuius tunc munere retia misit. Rhetorical figures may be found in conjunction with features of vocabulary or content that would naturally

⁹ Nor is it always clear, in these discussions, whether we are to think merely of habits of speech and thought which Juvenal caught from his rhetorical training and put to good use in satire (habits whose presence nobody doubts), or of a more systematic and conscious use of rhetorical modes. Braund (1996: 19) certainly implies the latter: 'Satire 6, for example, gains from being read as a progymnasma'. 'Gains' in what way? What marks would this essentially irreverent composition have got from a real rhetorical teacher? At the most—to risk labouring the point once more—it might gain from being read as a parody of the sort of things that were said in such exercises.

be associated with low style, as for example in the accumulatio of 3.31–3 quis facile est aedem conducere flumina portus, | siccandam eluviem, portandum ad busta cadaver, | et praebere caput domina venale sub hasta. Processing sewage and carrying corpses are not dignified activities, and the latter is described in the brutally concrete terms portandum cadaver rather than e.g. ducendum funus. One should allow above all for an element of self-mockery in Juvenal's rhetoric.

In the second category of style I would include together what may be called texture (simplicity and complexity, and so forth) and tempo (rapidity or retardation of argument or narrative) and any other features that have to do with the broader structure of a piece of writing. Thirdly, there is what we more specifically mean when we talk of the style of a particular author; the peculiarities in vocabulary or phrasing favoured or avoided by an individual, the sort of thing that makes attributions possible on the basis of stylometric analysis; what we might call the author's thumbprint. These two features have no necessary correlation with the categories of 'high' or 'low'.

Fourthly, there is the question of what may be called tone: the way an author treats his envisaged audience. In this context we may talk of a serious or flippant style, a moralizing or didactic style, or whatever. The attempt to judge the tone (or, in this sense, the style) of a piece of writing is very closely related to the attempt to judge the intention behind it. For that reason it is often very difficult, at least where other evidence for the intention is lacking (and, as some of our friends in the profession never tire of pointing out, this is quite frequently the case). It is possible entirely to mistake the tone of a piece of writing. A competent author should be able to avoid this kind of problem in the short term, but no author, however careful, can ensure that the tone of his work will not be misjudged at some time or other in the next couple of millennia. Comic and satirical writers are particularly prone to misunderstanding of this sort, since they often presuppose a large shared background in their readership and the ability to pick up signals of considerable subtlety. A modern example that occurs to me often in this context is Chekhov, who I believe is generally regarded in Russia as a great comic writer, although his humour does not come over at all well in English translation. Of course, in the case of Juvenal, there are no native readers left to ask, so we have to argue from our own experience and try to back up our view with evidence; but there must once have been a right answer to the question, and there may yet be one more plausible than its rivals.

Fifthly, and here we come to my central point, there is what is sometimes by traditional critics called diction or stylistic level, and by linguists, register. Stylistic register has two characteristics that mark it off from some of the other features normally thought to belong to style. To speak in broad general terms, it is public, not individual; it belongs to the linguistic code shared by the community, and there are fairly circumscribed limits to the extent to which any individual writer or speaker can interfere with it. I illustrated this with a class of students by giving them the following four English sentences: (1) Orestes killed his mother; (2) Orestes committed matricide; (3) Orestes slew her that bore him; (4) Orestes did in his mum. There was absolutely no disagreement as to how those four sentences should be described in terms of their stylistic register. While the set of registers available in a given linguistic community at a particular time may be different from what is available in another, nevertheless some kind of public definition of registers is possible, even across cultural boundaries, and even though the actual manipulation of register within a speech-community is in most cases largely unconscious.

The second characteristic, doubtless a corollary of the first, is that the register of words can to some extent be measured objectively by looking at the kinds of texts in which they occur. Some of the difficulties inherent in this procedure have been pointed out by Professor Robert Coleman. To his remarks I shall add merely that negative tests are a good deal easier to apply than positive ones. Comparative statistics are often difficult to evaluate, but if a word is entirely absent from a particular author or genre, it is easier to draw conclusions.

The fundamental work on register in Latin poetry is, of course, B. Axelson's *Unpoetische Wörter* (1945). This deals with only one part of the subject, albeit perhaps the most important part: that concerned with vocabulary. However, syntax, word order and sentence construction are also relevant. In English, for example, the phrase *twitched his mantle blue* contains both a poetic item of vocabulary (mantle) and a poetic feature of word order (postposition of adjective). Anyone going into Marks and Spencer's and asking for a 'coat blue' would be looked at in a strange way. In Latin, the most obvious feature of poetic register as regards word order is persistent hyperbaton of noun and adjective (see Pearce (1966), who however does not deal with post-Augustan poetry). One of the things I would like to see done by way of research in this field is to determine a hierarchy of register for different types of hyperbaton. It might seem, for example, that an emphatic adjective separated from its noun by a main

¹⁰ But not e.g. in the army, where, in official references to clothing or equipment, the logical principle that *genus* comes before *differentia* overrides natural English word order, giving rise to items such as 'socks thick woollen'. On poetic word orders, cf. also J. H. W. Penney's chapter in this volume, pp. 263–8.

verb, as in bonos habemus consules, is quite ordinary and prosaic, while the interlaced hyperbaton of saevae memorem Iunonis ob iram is distinctively poetic (in classical Latin: medieval prose writers imitate it indiscriminately); but for cases between these extremes, things are not so clear.

A full study of Juvenal's use of hyperbaton remains to be done.11 But I note that in the first fifty lines of Satire 1 he has 26 hyperbata, as against 20 in the first fifty lines of the Aeneid (in the latter I have not counted three of the trivial type adjective+preposition+noun, as in una cum gente), and 17 in the first fifty lines of the first book of Horace's satires. This might make him seem more 'poetic' than Virgil; but Juvenal pales beside Statius, who has about 36 in the first fifty lines of the Thebaid (all these figures are approximate and rely on certain arbitrary assumptions about what constitutes a hyperbaton). Again it must be stressed: the true point of comparison for Juvenal's 'epic' style is the epic that was being written in his own lifetime. As for complex hyperbata, Virgil has only saevae memorem Iunonis ob iram in the fifty-line passage, while Juvenal has 1.20 magnus equos Auruncae flexit alumnus, 32 causidici nova cum veniat lectica Mathonis, and 38 optima summi | nunc via processus. We should probably not count 8 Aeoliis vicinum rupibus antrum and 13 assiduo ruptae lectore columnae in quite the same category, since these can be divided clearly into a noun, antrum or columnae, qualified by an adjectival phrase Aeoliis vicinum rupibus or assiduo ruptae lectore, whereas a true interlaced hyperbaton cannot be divided into smaller sense-units. Even without these, however, Juvenal clearly outdoes Virgil. But so does the pedestrian Horace, who has S.1.1.28 gravem duro terram qui vertit aratro, 29-30 nautaeque per omne | audaces mare qui currunt, and (perhaps) 45 milia frumenti tua triverit area centum. A larger sample might reveal a clearer pattern, but this modest excursion is enough to show the potential difficulties of such an approach.

Any language is bound to contain a large number of words and constructions that are virtually neutral as regards register. This applies to Orestes killed his mother as opposed to the other three ways of saying this. The use of such words is not, in itself, a clear indicator of stylistic level. One can draw significant conclusions only if such words are largely avoided (e.g. in favour of poetic, official or slang equivalents), or if a text is entirely composed of them. Further, register is not the same as literary or generic convention. In a literary culture there may be special conventions about what one can and cannot say in particular sorts of literature. For example,

¹¹ Braund (1996: 27) lists examples of a special case of hyperbaton, the so-called 'golden line'.

problems were apparently experienced in translating Othello into French in the eighteenth century, because the conventions of the time did not allow the mention of a handkerchief in formal dramatic style. Commentators sometimes seem to think that when Juvenal mentions hoes and mattocks and the like (3.309–11, 11.89, 15.165ff.) he is evoking the poetic world of the Georgics: in fact he is pulling us down to earth much more sharply than we might at first suppose. These words (ligo, marra, sarculum) are treated with circumspection in dignified writing; Virgil avoids them, even in the Georgics, and allows only the evidently more decorous rastrum, while Tacitus' periphrasis for them at Annals 1.65 is notorious (though Goodyear (1972: 343) rightly points out the occurrence of ligones without apology in Annals 3.27; the stylistic nuance in any given passage is a matter for delicate judgement). For us, maybe, mattocks and scythes are poetic in themselves because they conjure up an age romantically simpler than our own: this fact is irrelevant and should be dismissed from the mind. If the occurrence of these plebeian words were not enough, it could also be noted that 3.310 contains a highly unepic line ending ut timeas ne; 15.165, on the other hand, juxtaposes the hoes with high epic parody, ast, ferrum letale, incude nefanda.

Axelson was not primarily interested in Juvenal, and often inexplicably leaves out our author when he gives statistics for all the others in his list. However, he provides some details which are significant. He notes, for example, Juvenal's free use of diminutives, certainly a prosaic feature, and, following Friedländer, he observes Juvenal's use of prosaic turns of phrase such as quod cum ita sit (found also in elegy, but not, of course, in epic). Regarding single items of vocabulary, Axelson notes for example iumentum, vas (vasis), vehemens, used by Juvenal and to some extent elsewhere in the 'lower' verse genres, but entirely absent from high poetry. The general picture, which would doubtless be confirmed by further research, is clear: Juvenal belongs firmly on the lower slopes of Helicon, along with the Satires and Epistles of Horace and with elegy, and does not share the fastidiousness of the epic poets when it comes to avoiding prosaic words.

Indeed, it appears to me that much of Juvenal's vocabulary, and more of his sentence-construction than is often supposed, is simply neutral for register, and that this makes the moments of epic parody all the more effective by contrast. It is difficult to illustrate stylistic neutrality by example. On this central issue I wish I could refer to a paper of which a summary appeared in *REL* 42 (1964) 57–9, but which does not seem ever to have been published *in extenso*. The author, P. Schmid, referred to Juvenal's 'sévérité du style et langue moderne' and observed that he 'se tient également à distance du purisme livresque et du maniérisme littér-

aire', referring on the one hand to his occasional use of everyday or colloquial words (common of course to all the satirists) and on the other to the contrast between Juvenal and his contemporary Tacitus. This is surely right and refreshing.

Juvenal does also use distinctively poetic words, although on the whole sparingly; I have already noticed that *ensis* and *duellum* occur only once each, in a special kind of context, and it would be an insensitive reader who did not see mockery in Juvenal's use of the archaic form *induperator* at 4.29. But more generally, an author as fond of irony and parody as Juvenal raises a particular problem for such lexicographical studies. One may be able, without too much trouble, to recognize the stylistic register of a particular word or construction used by him. But the tone in which he uses it may still escape one. How is one to detect irony or parody when it is there, or to be sure that one is not also detecting it when it is not there? One relatively recent study of Juvenal (Romano (1979)) vouchsafes the statistic that of 171 lines in the first satire, 109 have ironical content. I do not aim to quantify as precisely as this, but rather to establish rational grounds on which one can argue for the presence of irony.

Theoretically, there may not be any difference, on the surface and on paper, between a sentence meant 'straight' and one meant ironically. But on the other hand, there may be. One of Juvenal's commonest tricks is to introduce a mismatch of register, either between one word and another in the same passage, or between sentence structure or verse structure and vocabulary, or an incongruity between the content and the level of language used to express it. The commentators have noticed plenty of individual instances of this type of thing, but it seems to me that it is an even more pervasive feature of Juvenal's style than most people have realized, and that a full recognition of it would simply preclude an overserious interpretation of his writing.

For example, Courtney (1980: 45) refers to the juxtaposition in 4.28–9 of the 'grand' induperator with the low words gluttio and ructo, but comments on this merely as an illustration of the 'wide range' of Juvenal's diction. This comment, with all respect, is beside the point. Induperator is not merely grand but, in this context, absurdly archaic: too archaic for Virgil, let alone the Silver poets. The absurdity is increased all the more by the guzzling and belching. Scott (1927) draws attention to a number of such cases, particularly 3.118, the periphrastic reference to Pegasus as Gorgoneus... caballus (he is Gorgoneus equus in Ovid and Statius), while Schmid (1964) notices 5.23 serraca Bootae. Similarly, Wiesen (1989) draws attention to 15.66: 'one word, the homely coxam, is the key to the irony'. To multiply examples would be tedious, but a cumulative picture begins to emerge. The point is that incongruities of this sort are incompatible

with the grand style in any simple sense of that phrase. The whole point of the grand style is that it has to be sustained. The slightest bathos or incongruity, even if unintentional, will ruin it. Where incongruity is deliberately sought, as it clearly is by Juvenal (unless he did these things in his sleep), it is surely no longer appropriate to talk of grand style.

Some passages, indeed, appear to shift about so quickly from the everyday world to the world of epic and back again that the unwary reader might get an impression of a chaotic mixture of stylistic levels, over which the author may seem to have lost control. In these cases too, however, it would be more charitable to assume that Juvenal is being deliberately facetious. Take for example, almost at random, a passage like 3.257–67, the description of the man killed in the street by the collapse of a cartload of marble:¹²

nam si procubuit qui saxa Ligustica portat axis, et eversum fudit super agmina montem, quid superest de corporibus? quis membra, quis ossa invenit? obtritum vulgi perit omne cadaver more animae. domus interea secura patellas iam lavat et bucca foculum excitat et sonat unctis striglibus et pleno componit lintea guto; haec inter pueros varie properantur; at ille iam sedet in ripa taetrumque novicius horret porthmea, nec sperat caenosi gurgitis alnum infelix, nec habet quem porrigat ore trientem.

In line 257 nothing is poetic except the postponement of axis until after the relative clause, but the following phrase eversum fudit super agmina montem produces an epic effect, not because the words in themselves are particularly poetic but because of the metaphorical hyperbole: the load of marble has become an upturned mountain (Harrison (1960: 99–101) observes that translators persistently miss this) and the crowds in the streets have become marching columns. Then some rhetorical questions, agitated in manner, but simple and prosaic in style: what is left of the bodies? Who can find limbs or bones? The next sentence, however, brings us into the world of Lucan and Statius. The rhythm of line 260 recalls Lucan 4.787 compressum turba stetit omne cadaver, while the content goes one better than Statius Theb. 6.884–5 (quoted by Braund (1996: ad loc.)), penitus fractum obtritumque cadaver | indignantem animam propriis non reddidit astris. In Statius the soul of the miner as well as his body is trapped

¹² Braund (1989a: 35) also discusses this passage — a fact which I had forgotten until she kindly pointed it out, at a late stage in the preparation of this paper for publication — and makes a number of the same points, but there is enough difference between her discussion and mine to justify letting the latter stand.

under the rock. This makes fairly dangerous play with the high Platonic doctrine of the soul's return to the stars, and may be thought already to hover on the edge of the grotesque; but Juvenal, assuming the commonsense view of the complete disappearance of the soul, implies that no trace remains even of the body. It is difficult not to assume that this is deliberately ludicrous.

Meanwhile, at home the servants, all unknowing, are getting ready for the victims of the accident to return. Of course epic also has its domestic scenes, but the point here is the vocabulary, which is strikingly homely and unpoetic: patellas (diminutive), bucca (not ore!), foculum (diminutive), striglibus (note the colloquial syncopated form), lintea, guto. Such everyday words often survived in Romance: patella = poêle, bucca = bouche. Strigles, so spelt, and gutus occur together in a graffito from Herculaneum (see Della Corte (1958: 271, no. 388, with facsimile in Tay. 3, facing pp. 264-5)). It is uncharitable to Juvenal to suppose that his striglibus is no more than a distortion for the sake of the metre, as apparently does Braund (1996: 219): it is a genuine colloquial form.¹³ Doubtless without it he could not have mentioned strigils at all, but in that case he would not have mentioned them. This passage, then, is full of prosaic, colloquial language; yet the use of domus as the collective designation of the house's inhabitants is on a higher level; and the homely oilflask is drawn into a poetic hyperbaton, pleno . . . guto. The next line, haec inter pueros varie properantur, is impeccably dignified, and the poetic, perhaps specifically Virgilian twist in at ille, with the sudden shift of scene to the banks of the Styx, has been well noticed by the critics (Jenkyns (1982: 191)). One is prepared for some real pathos in the description of the unburied ghost, but the expectation is defeated to some extent by the utterly prosaic word novicius ('tiro', or even 'greenhorn'). And does any serious Latin poet use triens?

The discussion by Scott just mentioned contains, in addition to many correctly identified examples of epic parody, a section entitled 'serious imitations of epic'. The latter section is, indeed, much shorter than the former, but I think I should spend a little time on it. I must confess that I find it a little difficult to see why some of the passages included in it are classified as 'serious', since Scott herself seems to admit that there is a

¹³ As a syncopation of the correct form *strigilibus*, it would be highly irregular. The syllable that has been lost is actually the accented syllable, while syncope regularly affects only unaccented syllables. If syncopation of (short) accented syllables were generally permissible in verse, poets would have had no difficulty in accommodating e.g. *facilius* or *pepulerat* to dactylic verse by turning them into *faclius or *peplerat; but they do no such thing. The only plausible explanation of striglibus is that it is remodelled on the stem of the regularly syncopated striglem (etc.). There are parallels for this process in sub-standard Latin, e.g. the form virdia for viridia, attested in an Egyptian ostracon (Cavenaile (1958: no. 304)).

nuance of parody about them. But in others too it seems to me that there is often an incongruity of the type I have mentioned, of a type to disqualify the passage from being a genuinely serious poetic imitation. For example, Scott quotes in this category the list of deities and divine attributes in 13.78–83, by which the perjurer is alleged to swear:

per Solis radios Tarpeiaque fulmina iurat et Martis frameam et Cirrhaei spicula vatis, per calamos venatricis pharetramque puellae, perque tuum, pater Aegaei Neptune, tridentem, addit et Herculeos arcus hastamque Minervae, quidquid habent telorum armamentaria caeli.

But even if one passes over the possible disrespect to Mars involved in investing him with a Germanic barbarian's spear (framea: perhaps 'assegai' would be a rough near-modern equivalent) and to Diana in calling her venatrix puella (cf. 4.36 prosit mihi vos dixisse puellas), the whole dignified effect is destroyed by the bathos of the final line quidquid habent telorum armamentaria caeli. Of course, if we translate this as 'celestial armoury' or something equally poetic, we miss the point entirely. This is, I think, the only occurrence of armamentarium in classical Latin verse of any sort. We would be nearer the stylistic mark if we talked of celestial ironmongery. Many passages in Juvenal are like this: for several lines he appears to be talking in a serious poetic vein, leading us up the garden path, only to end in an abruptly deflationary punch-line (cf. Martyn (1979) for a collection of such passages; cf. also the surprise effects listed by Braund (1996: 26 and 27)). To stop quoting before you get to that point is a sure way to encourage radical misunderstanding.

In some instances the similarity to serious poetry is merely in subject matter, not in style (3.309–11 cf. Virg. Georg. 1.505–8; 15.127, on Egypt, cf. Georg. 4.287–9; 10.265 cf. Aen. 3.1; 267 cf. Aen. 2.509–10; 328–9 cf. Aen. 5.5–6; etc.); such instances are clearly no help for our present purpose. Sometimes any serious effect is ruined (deliberately, of course) by a ridiculous and whimsical twist given to a familiar topos: for example, Scott quotes in her 'serious' category 12.57–9 i nunc et ventis animam committe, dolato | confisus ligno, digitis a morte remotus | quattuor aut septem, si sit latissima, taedae; but what genuine poet talking about the dangers of seamanship would speculate about whether you were four or seven inches removed from death? 13.100 is quoted as being similar to Iliad 4.160: the gods' anger is slow but sure. In the right context such a sentiment could be taken quite seriously, but this is not the right context. Juvenal's line is actually a reversal of the Homeric sentiment, expressed in an extremely prosaic style for good measure (the locution ut sit... tamen certe would

hardly be suitable in epic): 'well, suppose the gods' anger is great, you have to admit it's slow'; and let us not leave out the next two lines either: 'so if they really take the trouble to punish all wrongdoers, they'll surely take a long time to get round to me'. That such a passage should be included in a catalogue of 'serious imitations of epic' is all but incredible.

I think I could do much the same as this for all the items in Scott's list, but I shall not labour the point. All I shall say is that if anyone can find a sustained, serious imitation of epic anywhere in Juvenal, without some incongruity or bathos or parody, I shall be very interested to hear of it.

After all this, some may be tempted to ask me whether I think Juvenal is ever serious at all. To this I reply that I think there are some passages in which he approaches a sort of seriousness, and that they are almost all of one kind: more or less nostalgic expressions of an ideal of moral virtue and simplicity, sometimes in generalized quasi-philosophical terms, as in 10.356ff., but more usually associated with the distant past or the remoter parts of the Italian countryside, as in parts of Satire 3; other such passages are 8.98, 11.77-98, 12.83ff. Even in these passages, however, there is often some incongruity or mockery which may be taken to undermine any serious message.¹⁴ It may easily be supposed that the sacred sausages at the end of the tenth satire cast their frivolous shadow over the moralistic message, and that the reference to captatio in 12.95 has a similar effect. Further, it should be noticed that Juvenal, in the earlier satires at least, rarely gives vent to such sentiments in his own person; indeed, one of the most effective passages of this sort is put in the mouth of the pervert Naevolus at the end of Satire 9, a consideration which must have, if anything, an even more unsettling effect on the reader than the revelation in Horace's second Epode that the praise of country life was spoken by a speculator on the Roman stock exchange. In any case, the style of these passages is (I submit) never high or grand in any normally accepted sense; they tend rather to be marked by a clear abandonment of the style of epic or rhetorical parody, doubtless accompanied in recitation by a straightening of the features and a quietening of the voice. The occasions on which Juvenal leads us to think that he is letting down the satirical mask to reveal a plain honest Roman or homespun philosopher underneath do, indeed, add greatly to the effect. Without them, the otherwise continually mocking and denunciatory tone might seem forced; but these passages

¹⁴ Cf. Wiesen (1989: 710): 'The past is almost never represented by Juvenal in other than ironic and ridiculing terms.' Yet at the same time, the past and the countryside in Juvenal function largely as rhetorical foils to the present and the city, and the denunciation of the latter depends on the idealization of the former. This would not be so effective if the treatment of the past were to be seen as entirely ironic.

throw the rest into relief. They are the times at which Juvenal comes closest to his predecessor Horace, and retreats furthest of all from anything resembling the grand style. Critics tend to talk of loftiness and sublimity in these contexts; but if there is sublimity, it is the special kind that comes from simplicity, the kind that Longinus found in Sappho and the Book of Genesis. It has nothing at all to do with the *genus grande dicendi*.

To conclude. A satirical writer can suffer no worse fate at the hands of posterity than to be taken too seriously. Persius has suffered in this way: his Stoic moralising has been exaggerated out of proportion and his subtly whimsical, ironical tone often entirely missed; he has been quite unjustly branded as obscure and humourless, and consequently remains largely unread, except by a few specialists. Juvenal is read, indeed, and often with enjoyment. But he has been regarded as something of a problem case; few Latin authors can have been more systematically damned with faint praise or praised more for the wrong reasons.¹⁵ I am fairly sure that failure to understand the subtleties of his manipulation of the stylistic registers of Latin has been one of the major obstacles to his appreciation. At the end of his much-cited, not so much bewildering as bewildered essay entitled 'Is Juvenal a Classic?', H. A. Mason (1963) pointed the way to the next step after clearing away the misleading views of Juvenal as a moralist or social historian, which was, according to him, 'to appreciate Juvenal as a supreme manipulator of the Latin language'. Exactly so; and I am only too conscious that I have been able to do little more in this paper than put forward a manifesto. In order to work out in full the practical implications of what I have said, having first divested oneself of prejudices about the grand style and related matters, one would need to subject the text as a whole to a detailed line-by-line scrutiny, with close attention to context, and without forgetting the larger-scale effects achieved by manipulation of register, tone and tempo over whole sentences and paragraphs. Many of the stylistic effects could be brought out most clearly by a simple translation, if the translation could only be got right; 'ironmongery' for armamentaria, for instance, would speak for itself.

It is possible that those of a modernistic turn of mind will tell me that my way of attempting to understand Juvenal, with reference to known or ascertainable facts about the language he used, is no more than one 'reading' out of many and that I have no right to present it as though I believed it to be in any sense correct or demonstrable. For the present

¹⁵ Over the last few years there have been some voices raised in protest against literal and humourless views of Juvenal: see Marache (1964), de St-Denis (1965: 224–36), Martyn (1979), Wiesen (1989). I commend these articles to the attention of anyone still unconvinced by my arguments.

I leave aside the complex and obscure philosophical issues that lie behind this often rather muddled kind of thinking. I reply merely by means of a parallel, which I know to be imperfect, because modern satirical journalism is not as concentrated a literary brew as Roman satire. Nevertheless, let us suppose that in the fortieth century AD, if there are still literate human beings alive at that time, someone gets hold of a copy of *Private Eye* and categorises it as a serious treatise on morals and politics or as an exercise in the mechanical deployment of rhetorical figures on set themes. That person may get great pleasure and even academic credit from doing so, but he or she will be wrong.

After the delivery of a version of the above paper at the British Academy Symposium, I had many very positive reactions from members of the audience. Some simply expressed agreement. A few, however, felt that despite everything I had said, it was still true (and less misleading than the contrary) to say that Juvenal used the grand style. I think that the difference between us is partly a matter of definition, and partly a matter of literary judgement and taste.

First, as regards the definition, it could be urged against me that I have defined the grand style in such a way as to exclude Juvenal from it, and that therefore my argument is ultimately circular. I would claim that I have simply tried to define what I think the grand style is, partly on the basis of the ancient concept of the *genus grande dicendi* and partly on the basis of observable differences of stylistic register among Latin authors. I believe that this category, in rough terms, is one which Juvenal himself would have recognized, and one into which the objects of much of Juvenal's literary parody clearly fall. Juvenal very often imitates the grand style by way of parody, ridicule and deflation; this is universally agreed; but as I said above, I cannot find any passage in which he appears to me to be using it 'straight'.

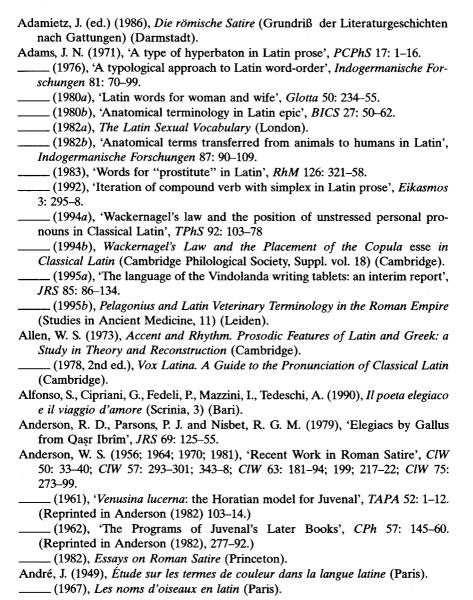
Regarding the question of taste, the case for grandeur may perhaps be put like this. In the first place, Juvenal parodies the grand style (whether epic, tragic or rhetorical) so much and so consistently that the parody in itself develops a sort of grandeur. In the second place, there is a grandeur in the scale, structure and overall rhetorical conception of the satires, for which the word 'panoramic' is not inappropriate; this, of course, reaches its highest point in the sixth satire.

This latter point has a great deal in it, but it has little to do with style in the sense we have been talking about. On the former point, I repeat that Juvenal's parody of the high style most often works by contrast and incongruity, and that even a relatively long passage of epic style, sustained

over a dozen lines or so, can be punctured by a single prosaic or colloquial word at the end. It is very easy to miss these effects, and if one does miss them, one has no reason not to believe that Juvenal's style is often simply that of epic. Many of us first met Juvenal at an early stage of our Latin studies, when we had not yet been trained to respond accurately to differences of stylistic register in Latin, and it is not easy to displace the impressions received at that stage. Perhaps, too, we are influenced by the views of earlier ages. The eighteenth century saw Juvenal as grand and dignified and translated him accordingly. Dr Johnson did not have the opportunity to benefit from Axelson's researches. I do of course admit that Juvenal has a certain dignity of style. He does not use obscenities in the way that, say, Martial does; though Juvenal's references to obscene doings in decorous language (conveniently listed by Braund (1996: 26)) are often much more striking than Martial's cheap vulgarisms. But decorum is one thing, and grandeur is another. The former can exist without the latter.

Last of all, a few words are called for in connection with the reassertion of Juvenal's grandeur by his latest editor. Braund (1996: 17) states: 'Juvenal writes in "the grand style". His adoption of the grand style — which is continually punctured or debased — seems to be an innovation within the genre But as I have argued, if it is continually punctured or debased it is not the grand style in any simple sense, since the effect of the genuine grand style depends precisely on not being punctured. It is interesting to look at Braund's list of examples of the grand style (p. 26). Out of the first five satires (nearly a thousand lines), twenty-nine passages are listed. Braund suggests that the list is not exhaustive, but it would not be easy to find many more. Of these, fourteen are accounted for by the explicit epic parody of Satire 4, and a further four by the programmatic passages of Satire 1 discussed above. This leaves eleven. Four of these are single words: 1.100 Troiugenas and 2.154 Scipiadae (both in very clearly parodic contexts), and the word *process* in two passages (2.121, 3.213) apart from two instances of the same word in Satire 4, already counted. This is Juvenal's standard term for lords or nobles. In fact, if one looks at the usage of proceres in general, it does not seem by any means to be confined to high poetry; it is doubtless a dignified word, but it is not uncommon in prose, and it has the advantage that (unlike nobiles or principes or optimates — though primores would have done well enough) its nominative plural will fit into dactylic verse. Then, in 5.49, there is a double -que (the lightest of epic touches, in the context of a rich patron's indigestion). 1.52-3 is included in the list, though I do not see why, since it seems merely to contain allusions to epic titles and subject matter rather than any particular hint of epic style. 1.81-4 burlesques the Deucalion and Pyrrha myth. 1.88-9 is a description of gambling in what are claimed to be epic terms; the style is more rhetorical than poetic, though perhaps slightly like Lucan. 5.78–9 is a clearly parodic description of a *salutator* drenched with rain on a wet spring morning, and finally we have 5.93 and 5.100, slightly poetic-sounding local descriptions of the provenance of mullets and lampreys. I think I can safely rest my case.

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