

to believe it. But I'll never
believe that he or anyone
could escape from Canius's
long-winded anecdotes.

Martial, III, lxix

Since you write all your epigrams
in language that's perfectly chaste,
and no indecencies ever
get into your poems, I'm full
of admiration and praise.
No one writes more respectably
than you. On the other hand,
I've never written a page
without some obscenities.

Let good-for-nothing young men
and easy-going girls read me --
and old lechers, and men in trouble
with their mistresses. Your poems --
so worthy of respect, Cosconius,
such models of propriety --
are perfect reading for children
and innocent young girls.

-- Barriss Mills

West Lafayette, Indiana

Aunt Mary and Aunt Magnolia

When Aunt Mary talked with animals and trees,
the chickens telling her it wasn't worth their while to lay
the market being what it was,
the trees complaining of their thirst
and the people who bothered them:
we all thought, "How queer!"

Aunt Magnolia, ashamed of her sister,
spoke with God on the matter.

-- Robert A. Davies

Forest Grove, Oregon