

Fabre-Serris, J. (2020) “The authorship of Tibullus 3.9’ authorship: methods and criteria”, in T. Franklino and L. Fulkerson (eds), *Constructing Authors and Readers in the Appendices Vergiliana, Tibulliana, and Ovidiana*, Oxford University Press, 170- 97.

The poems of the *Corpus Tibullianum* 3.8-18 have often been considered to form a self-contained unit. In 1838, Gruppe attributed poems 14-18, written in the first person, to Sulpicia, and poems 8-13, to an anonymous poet, the *amicus Sulpiciae* (poems 8, 10, 12 are in the third person, poems 9, 11, 13 in the first person). He offers no reason for acceptance of this schema, but his hypothesis was, until recently, contested only for poem 3.13, attributed by Roszbach to Sulpicia in 1855. This new repartition was very widely accepted until 1994, when Parker argued that all the poems in the first person were by Sulpicia. I try to support Parker’s assumption by examining elegy 3.9 as a specific case study allowing us to highlight methods and criteria which could be used in discussing authorial identity more broadly across her oeuvre. In Roman literature poets tend to relate to other poets, in particular to certain predecessors in the same literary genre (by referring to the way they have dealt with a specific topic), in order to establish themselves in a poetic tradition. Often, in order to establish their work as a new part of this tradition, they offer a personal variation on the same theme. Inserting thematic and verbal references to some of one’s own texts is a means of constructing oneself as an author who differs from others in both style and manner. After examining the intertextual references made in poem 9 to Virgil, Tibullus and Propertius, I suggest that its author is also Sulpicia, since the stylistic features that appear to be specific to poem 9 are common to poems 3.13 and 18 as well. Then I try to show why the position of poem 9 in the Sulpician cycle, framed by poems 8 and 10 in which the *amicus* offers a more respectable image of Sulpicia in accordance with her social status, can support my contention.