

CATULLUS

In this book, a sequel to *Traditions and Contexts in the Poetry of Horace* (Cambridge 2002), ten leading Latin scholars provide specially commissioned in-depth discussions of the poetry of Catullus, one of ancient Rome's best loved poets. Some chapters focus on the collection as a whole and the inter-relationship of various poems; others deal with intertextuality and translation and Catullus' response to his Greek predecessors, both classical and Hellenistic. Two of the key subjects are the communication of desire and the presentation of the real world. Some chapters provide analyses of individual poems, others discuss how Catullus' poetry was read by Virgil and Ovid. A wide variety of critical approaches is on offer, and in the Epilogue the editors provide a provocative survey of the issues raised by the volume.

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CATULLUS

Poems, Books, Readers

EDITED BY
IAN DU QUESNAY AND TONY WOODMAN





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Contents

Notes on contributors Preface		<i>page</i> v11 x
Ι	Callimachus in Verona: Catullus and Alexandrian poetry Damien P. Nelis	I
2	Representation and the materiality of the book in the polymetrics Denis Feeney	29
3	Booking lovers: desire and design in Catullus G. O. Hutchinson	48
4	Catullus and the <i>Garland</i> of Meleager <i>Kathryn Gutzwiller</i>	79
5	Poem 45: the wooing of Acme and Septimius Francis Cairns	II2
6	A covering letter: Poem 65 Tony Woodman	130
7	Three problems in Poem 66 Ian Du Quesnay	153
8	Putting on the yoke of necessity: myth, intertextuality and moral agency in Catullus 68 Monica R. Gale	184
9	Virgil's Catullan plots Philip Hardie	212

V



vi	Contents	
Ю	Catullan contexts in Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses K. Sara Myers</i>	239
	Epilogue	255
	breviations and bibliography	273
Index locorum		301
General index		304



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vii



viii Notes on contributors

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Notes on contributors

ix

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Preface

When *Quality and Pleasure in Latin Poetry* was published in 1974, it was not foreseen that the volume would become the first in a series, still less that that series would continue to be in existence almost forty years later. The most recent volume was *Traditions and Contexts in the Poetry of Horace* in 2002, so it seemed appropriate to follow with a volume on Catullus, with whom Horace is so often compared.

As on previous occasions contributors have been free to choose their own themes and treatments, while we as Editors have tried to draw together some of the main issues in an Epilogue. We are deeply grateful to our contributors for their chapters and for their forbearance during the unexpectedly long time of the book's production. We should also like it to be known that one of the first scholars from whom we had hoped to elicit a contribution was Oliver Lyne.

I. M. Le M. Du Q. A. J. W. Summer 2012