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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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.
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