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978-0-521-13669-3 - Backgrounds to Augustan Poetry: Gallus Elegy and Rome

David O. Ross

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BACKGROUNDS TO AUGUSTAN POETRY:  
GALLUS, ELEGY AND ROME

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ELEGY AND ROME

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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LONDON • NEW YORK • MELBOURNE

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521136693](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521136693)

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First published 1975  
This digitally printed version 2010

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 74-31782*

ISBN 978-0-521-20704-1 Hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-13669-3 Paperback

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## Preface

The arguments and conclusions in this book are intended for scholars, but I have tried to present the material in such a way as to be intelligible and even helpful to graduate students and, perhaps, undergraduates. I hope that serious students of Latin poetry accept with patience the pages in each chapter that are a general introduction or summary, and that other classical readers will find their way as easily as they can through the discussions of details on which my generalities are based.

The troublesome question of reference to the work of other scholars is related. As a general rule, I have tried to cite either the first substantive discussion of any particular relevant question or a recent discussion from which a student can find his way back through the previous literature: on very few points have I tried to present anything like a full introductory bibliography. There is much work of real worth that unfortunately I have not been able to cite, and conversely I have referred to some work (representing the *communis opinio*) I consider of little value, but I hope the balance and economy so achieved outweighs both these faults. Finally, of course, I cannot pretend to have read more than a fraction of what has been written on Augustan poetry and its antecedents.

A large part of this book was written during the academic year 1970–71: I am indebted to the Committee for the Morse Fellowships in the Humanities, Yale University, for a grant making that year's uninterrupted work possible.

Many friends, colleagues, and students have helped me shape my ideas. R. O. A. M. Lyne and J. Bramble shared with me their own enthusiasm for Gallus at a particularly crucial time; their conversation encouraged me to think that even if my conclusions were wrong, my questions were not irrelevant. H. D. Jocelyn read a draft of this book with his usual care, learning, and perceptiveness. Mistakes of all sorts necessarily remain, but at least I have made a fair number of them

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knowingly. Finally, my thanks are due to Janalyn Gibb for her expert preparation of the manuscript; and to the Syndics and staff of the Cambridge University Press.

Ann Arbor, Michigan  
October 1974

D.O.R.