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978-0-521-29683-0 - Tibullus: A Hellenistic Poet at Rome

Francis Cairns

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To David West

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## PREFACE

Tibullus was among the leading poets of Augustan Rome and there is growing interest in his work today. This book seeks to relate Tibullus to the Hellenistic literary tradition in which he worked and to examine aspects of his craftsmanship which derive from it. Since his poetic practice is characteristic of much Greek and Roman poetry, the book in consequence also offers students of ancient poetry analytic techniques capable of wider application. Not all the elegies of Tibullus are covered with equal thoroughness; but I have tried to give greater coverage to those not discussed in my earlier work and lacking a satisfactory modern treatment.

Greek quotations, but not Latin, are translated. Tibullus is quoted only where minutiae are in question, on the assumption that readers will have a text at hand. The line numbers and, for the most part, the punctuation of the Oxford Classical Text of J. P. Postgate (2nd ed. Oxford 1915) have been followed; with disputed readings I have made my own judgements. The text of Lenz–Galinsky (3rd ed. Leiden 1971) is of course more up to date and their apparatus is fuller. But the OCT is more likely to be available to readers of this book; and the text of Tibullus is relatively unproblematic.

There is a large secondary literature on Tibullus. The older material is admirably assembled and analysed by A. Cartault, *A propos du Corpus Tibullianum: un siècle de philologie latine classique* (Paris 1906). H. Harrauer, *A Bibliography to the Corpus Tibullianum* (Bibliography to Augustan Poetry 1, Hildesheim 1971) collects material up to 1970; and some later work is reported by R. J. Ball, 'Recent work on Tibullus (1970–1974)', *Eranos* 73 (1975) 62ff. These compilations have permitted me to dispense with a full bibliography. In citing secondary literature I have confined myself to works relevant to the points under discussion and either making real contributions or deserving notice.

*Tibullus* was written over the period 1971–7, with revision continuing up to mid-1978. But the text was substantially finalised by mid-1977 and regretfully I have not been able to take account of work published after that date, except superficially or in cases where it was known to me prior to publication. In the years 1974–7 chapters of *Tibullus* formed the basis of lectures given in the universities of Athens, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Lund, at Birkbeck College London, at the Freie Universität Berlin and at University College Dublin. Stimulating and helpful comments made on

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these occasions have materially advanced it, as have discussions with colleagues at the universities of Edinburgh and Liverpool, and with participants in the Liverpool Latin Seminar from British and foreign universities.

A number of particular debts must be acknowledged. The University of Liverpool gave a generous grant in aid of research. Mr Guy Lee, Mr C. W. Macleod and Professor R. G. M. Nisbet read a draft of *Tibullus*, saved me from many follies and made numerous useful comments and observations. Mr I. M. Le M. Du Quesnay laboured upon two successive drafts with Herculean endurance, and the book owes much to his learning and judgement. Enquiries about Hellenistic poetry were patiently answered by Professor G. Giangrande; Mr Angus Bowie checked the translations of Greek passages; the referees for Cambridge University Press made some valuable points; and my wife Sandra typed endless drafts and contributed many matters of substance. Finally, Dr F. J. Williams read proofs of the work. For the errors that remain in *Tibullus* I alone am responsible.

Francis Cairns

*Liverpool*  
*November 1978*

## ABBREVIATIONS

Ancient authors, periodicals and standard editions and reference works are abbreviated in accordance with normal conventions throughout. In addition, the more commonly cited works, listed below, will be abbreviated as follows:

- Ball R. J. Ball, 'The structure of Tibullus's elegies' (unpubl. Diss. Columbia 1971)
- Copley F. O. Copley, *Exclusus Amator: A Study in Latin Love Poetry* (Philological Monographs published by the American Philological Association No. 17, 1956)
- Cornell, *PCPhS*  
 T. J. Cornell, 'Aeneas and the twins: the development of the Roman foundation legend', *PCPhS* 201 n. s. 21 (1975) 1ff.
- Cornell (thesis)  
 T. J. Cornell, 'Cato's *Origines* and the non-Roman Historical tradition about Ancient Italy' (unpublished University of London Ph.D. thesis (Arts), 1972)
- Fraser P. M. Fraser, *Ptolemaic Alexandria* (3 vols. Oxford 1972)
- GC F. Cairns, *Generic Composition in Greek and Roman Poetry* (Edinburgh 1972)
- Gow – Page, *HE*  
 A. S. F. Gow and D. L. Page, *The Greek Anthology: Hellenistic Epigrams* (2 vols. Cambridge 1965)
- Graham  
 A. J. Graham, *Colony and Mother City in Ancient Greece* (Manchester 1964)
- Kambylis  
 A. Kambylis, *Die Dichterweihe und ihre Symbolik* (Bibliothek der Klassischen Altertumswissenschaften N. F. 2, Heidelberg 1965)
- Kroll W. Kroll, *Studien zum Verständnis der römischen Literatur* (Stuttgart 1924)
- Newman  
 J. K. Newman, *Augustus and the New Poetry* (Coll. Latomus 88, Brussels 1967)
- Pfeiffer R. Pfeiffer, *History of Classical Scholarship* (2 vols. Oxford 1968, 1976)
- PLLS 1976  
*Papers of the Liverpool Latin Seminar 1976* (Arca Classical and Medieval Texts, Papers and Monographs 2, Liverpool 1977)
- PLLS 1979  
*Papers of the Liverpool Latin Seminar Second Volume 1979* (Arca Classical

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- and Medieval Texts, Papers and Monographs 3, Liverpool 1979)
- Powell    *Collectanea Alexandrina*, ed. J. U. Powell (Oxford 1925)
- Puelma Piwonka  
           M. Puelma Piwonka, *Lucilius und Kallimachos* (Frankfurt am Main 1949)
- Schmid  
           P. B. Schmid, *Studien zu griechischen Ktisissagen* (Diss. Freiburg i. d. Schweiz 1947)
- Smith    *The Elegies of Albius Tibullus*, ed. K. F. Smith (New York 1913, repr. Darmstadt 1971)
- Weinstock  
           S. Weinstock, *Divus Julius* (Oxford 1971)
- Wimmel, *DFT*  
           W. Wimmel, *Der frühe Tibull* (*Studia et Testimonia Antiqua* 6, Munich 1968)
- Wimmel, *Kallimachos*  
           W. Wimmel, *Kallimachos in Rom* (*Hermes Einzelschriften* 16, Wiesbaden 1960)
- Wimmel, *TDI*  
           W. Wimmel, *Tibull und Delia I: Tibulls Elegie 1, 1* (*Hermes Einzelschriften* 37, Wiesbaden 1976)