

## THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO CATULLUS

Catullus is one of the most popular poets to survive from classical antiquity. Above all others he seems to speak to modern readers with a modern voice. The distinguished contributors to this *Companion* discuss the principal subjects which drew Catullus' affection and disgust, above all his famous affair with the woman he calls 'Lesbia', and situate him in the social, historical and intellectual context of first-century BC Rome. One of the so-called 'new poets', Catullus had a profound effect on subsequent Latin poetry, and this is explored especially for the Augustan age and the late first century AD. A significant part of the volume is concerned with Catullus' survival into the modern world. There are discussions both of the manuscript tradition and of the interpretative scholarship which has been devoted to his poetry, as well as his reception by Renaissance and later poets. Students in particular will appreciate this book.

IAN DU QUESNAY was formerly Bursar of Newnham College and Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge and University Lecturer in Classics at the University of Cambridge. He has published extensively on Latin poetry and co-edited, with Tony Woodman, *Catullus: Poems, Books, Readers* (Cambridge, 2012).

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# THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO CATULLUS

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## *Preface*

From the very long list of Cambridge Companions to Literature and Classics one of the world's most famous and best loved poets has been conspicuous by his absence. This oversight we have tried to rectify in the present volume by inviting leading scholars to apply their expertise to Catullus' poetry, to the transmission of his poems, and to the influence which the poems have had in both the ancient and the modern worlds. Given the scholarly popularity of Catullus and the innumerable questions which his poetry raises, it is naturally impossible to cover the full range of topics in a single volume; but we hope that we have dealt with most of the major issues and that the volume will be thought to constitute a reasonable and representative selection. Above all we would like to think that the volume, while providing the 'authoritative guide' which readers of a Cambridge Companion are entitled to expect, will also make a genuine contribution to Catullan scholarship and will act as a stimulant to further research on this most beguiling of poets.

It is inevitable that a wide-ranging Companion, involving numerous contributors, will take a considerable time to produce, and this volume is no exception. Nevertheless our contributors, to whom we are extremely grateful for their scholarly efforts, have tried to ensure that their chapters are as up to date as was compatible with the editorial process.

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