Latin literature is a hotbed of holes and erasures. Its sensitivity to politics leaves it ripe for repression of all sorts of names, places and historical events, while its dense allusivity appears to hide interpretative clues in a network of texts that only the reader’s consciousness can make present. This volume showcases innovative approaches to the field of Latin literature, all of which are refracted through this prism of absence, which functions as a fundamental generative force both for the hermeneutics and the ongoing literary aftermath of these texts. Reviewing and working with various influential approaches to textual absence, the contributors to Unspoken Rome treat these texts as silent types, listening out for what they do not say, and how they do not speak, whilst also tracing the ill-defined borders within which scholars and modern authors are legitimised to fill in the silences around which they are built.

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UNSPOKEN ROME

Absence in Latin Literature and its Reception

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Contents

List of Figures vii
Unspoken Rome: Acknowledgements viii
List of Contributors ix

Introduction 1
Tom Geue and Elena Giusti

Part I Absence in Text

1 Catullus’ Sapphic Lacuna: A Palimpsest of Absences and Presences 19
Ábel Tamás

2 Speaking Aposiopeseis: The (Generic) Sound of Silence in Statius’ Thebaid 35
Stefano Briguglio

3 Allegorical Absences: Virgil, Ovid, Prudentius and Claudian 47
Philip Hardie

4 Tamen apsentes prosunt pro praeentibus: Proxied Absences and Roman Comedy 67
Giuseppe Pezzini

5 Absence Left Wanting: The Groove in Ovid’s Remedia 89
Victoria Rimell

6 The Gaze on the Void: Hermeneutic Responses to Dido’s First Appearance 109
Viola Starnone
Contents

PART II ABSENCE IN CONTEXT

7 Speaking Silence in Cicero’s Brutus and Tacitus’ Dialogus de Oratoribus
   Kathrin Winter

8 Et sine auctore notissimi uersus: Unauthored Poetry and Rome’s Authoritarian Turn
   Barbara Del Giovane

9 Looking for the Emperor in Seneca’s Letters
   Catharine Edwards

10 Marcus Aurelius: Medi()ations Not Medi(c)ations
    John Henderson

11 Lost in Germania: The Absence of History in Tacitus’ Ethnography
    James McNamara

12 Conspicuous Absence: Tacitus’ De Re Publica
    Ellen O’Gorman

PART III GOING BEYOND

13 The Slave, Between Absence and Presence
    William Fitzgerald

14 In Search of the Lost City: The Enduring Absence of Pompeii
    Joanna Paul

15 Omnibus umbra locis adero: Elena Ferrante and the Poetics of Absence
    Francesca Bellei

16 The Philology of Grief: Catullus 101 and Anne Carson’s Nox
    Erik Fredericksen

17 Absence, Metaphysically Speaking: From Reception to Instauration?
    Duncan F. Kennedy

    Afterword: Lights Out
    Emily Gowers

Bibliography

General Index

Index Locorum
Figures


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