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**TRISTIA BOOK III**

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Ovid. Tristia Book III by S. G. Owen

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**S. G. OWEN**

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TRISTIA BOOK III**



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TRISTIA BOOK III

*WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES*

BY

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## PREFACE.

THE text, with the exception of a few trifling changes in punctuation, is reprinted from my recently published critical edition (*P. Ovidi Nasonis Tristium Libri V recensuit S. G. Owen, A. M.* Clarendon Press, 1880), where the materials are fully given. No notice has been taken of varieties of reading in an edition intended for school use. Besides the commentaries mentioned in the preface to my edition of Book I (Clarendon Press, 1885), I have found the notes of Verpoorten (Coburg, 1712) and the German selections of K. P. Schulze (Berlin, Weidmann, 1884) and W. Gross (Bamberg, 1870) especially helpful.

MANCHESTER: *July, 1889.*

Some changes have been made in this edition, in preparing which I have received much help from a paper by Mr. Robinson Ellis on the *Tristia* in the *Dublin Hermathena*, vol. 7. pp. 183 foll.

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	v
TEXT . . . . .	1
NOTES . . . . .	29
INDEX . . . . .	75



## INTRODUCTION.

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PUBLIUS OVIDIUS NASO was born at Sulmo, in the hills of the Paeligni, on March 20th, B.C. 43. His parents, of a respectable equestrian family, though not wealthy, were in easy circumstances. His brother, one year his senior, together with whom he was educated at Rome, died in his twenty-first year. Ovid attended the rhetorical schools of two chief teachers of the day, Arellius Fuscus and Porcius Latro; to which influence is due the strong rhetorical colouring of his poems. Early in life he travelled with his friend and fellow-poet Macer to Greece and Asia Minor, staying in the course of his return for nearly a year in Sicily. Having thus finished his education after the approved mode, he entered public life, and held some of the minor judicial posts which preceded the quaestorship; but having no liking for the law or politics, he gave himself up entirely to literature, and occupied no inconsiderable position among the literary men of the day. He had only one child, a daughter, though three times married: of his third wife, whom he frequently addresses in the *Tristia*, he speaks in terms of affection which it is gratuitous to suppose are insincere, as some have done. In his fifty-first year, B.C. 9, he incurred the displeasure of the emperor, and was banished to Tomi or Tomis, now Anadol-köi near Köstendje, in Moesia, on the dreary western coast of the Black Sea. Here he lived in misery, far from the cultured capital so dear to him; and here he died in A.D. 17, all his own and his friends' prayers to Augustus and his successor Tiberius for the recall of the sentence having proved unavailing. The cause of his exile is unknown: Ovid himself speaks of it as due to a mistake (*error*) of conduct, which led him to conceal something painful to Augustus which he had unintentionally witnessed, and which he ought to have disclosed. Probably the disaster was connected with

an intrigue between the younger Julia and Silanus; though it is not impossible, as a writer in the *Guardian* (Sept. 14, 1887) has maintained, that Ovid had somehow offended Livia, who no doubt had many 'skeletons in her cupboard,' and whose influence with Tiberius was strong, which would explain why Tiberius never revoked the sentence. (Huber, *Die Ursachen der Verbannung des Ovid*, thinks that Ovid was concerned in a cabal whose object was to prevent the banishment of Julia, and that this was the nominal, the republication of his amatory poems the real ground of offence. See *Classical Review*, III, p. 311.)

The following is a list of the works of Ovid :—

1. *Amorum Libri III.* Love-poems.
2. *Heroides.* A collection of letters in elegiac verse, purporting to have been written by ladies of heroic renown to their absent lovers.
3. *Medicamina formae.* A fragment on the use of cosmetics.
4. *Artis Amatorias Libri III.* Two books of rules for men as to how to gain the affections of girls, and one book for girls, as to how to gain those of men. This work, according to Ovid, contributed to bring upon him the emperor's displeasure.
5. *Remedia Amoris*, on the means of escaping from love : intended perhaps as an antidote to the *Ars Amatoria*.
6. *Metamorphoseon Libri XV.* A collection in hexameter verse of the chief fables of antiquity, which involved a transformation of shape, from the creation of the world out of chaos down to the transmutation of Julius Caesar into a star. The poem had not received its writer's last polish when he was exiled ; and in his disgust he burnt it. But fortunately friends had received copies of it, from one of which it was published.
7. *Fastorum Libri VI.* In elegiac verse, describing the ceremonies and legends connected with the Roman calendar. It was originally intended to be in twelve books, a book dealing with each month ; but it was broken off at his exile, and never completed<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Knoegel, *De retractatione Fastorum ab Ovidio Tomis instituta*, Montaborini 1885, shows that the *Fasti* was not finished by Ovid at the

8. *Tristium Libri V.* A collection of elegies, in the form of letters, chiefly consisting of lamentations on his exile.

9. *Ibis.* An invective in 644 elegiac lines, against an unknown enemy, whom Ovid accuses of having procured his disfavour with the emperor, and having tried to obtain an increase of the exile's sentence, so as to include beyond mere *relegatio* the deprivation of his civic rights and property (Wartenberg, *Q. O.* p. 21).

10. *Ex Ponto Epistularum Libri IV.* Letters in elegiac verse, written during his exile to different persons at Rome, who, in contradistinction to the *Tristia*, are addressed by name.

11. *Halieuticon Liber.* A fragment on the natural history of the fishes of the Black Sea, written in hexameter verse. (Its genuineness has been assailed by Birt, *De Halieuticis Ovidio poetæ falso adscriptis*, Berol. 1878.)

*Chronology of the Tristia.* (From Wartenberg, *Quæstiones Ovidianæ, quibus agitur de Tristium, Ibis, Epistularumque, quæ 'Ex Ponto' inscribuntur, temporibus.* Berolini, 1884.)

Ovid must have reached Tomis in the spring of A. D. 10. He left Italy and crossed the Adriatic in the December of A. D. 9, and as there is no real evidence to show that he received letters from home in the course of his journey, or that he stayed by the way at Corinth, he probably went as quickly as possible, and reached Tomis in January or February of A. D. 10; or possibly, if he stayed for a short time at some of the more interesting places on the way, he may have arrived in March at the latest.

The individual letters of the different books of the *Tristia* (Book II is a continuous epistle addressed to Augustus) would seem to have been sent by the poet to Rome not singly, but collected in the form of complete books, as they now exist. The order of the poems in each book is not strictly chronological, but artistic to a certain extent. Thus poems on similar subjects are time of his exile; that he kept it, intending to dedicate it to the offended Augustus, if he relented; that on the death of Augustus he proceeded to revise it with a view to dedicating it to Germanicus, but was surprised by death after completing the first book only of the revision.