

**CATULLUS: WITH  
THE PERVIGILIUM  
VENERIS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649096831

Catullus: with the Pervigilium Veneris by Gaius Valerius Catullus & J. R. Weguelin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS & J. R. WEGUELIN**

**CATULLUS: WITH  
THE PERVIGILIUM  
VENERIS**



CATULLUS: WITH THE PERVIGILIUM  
VENERIS.



W. M. W. 1840

11708

CATULLUS: WITH THE  
PERVIGILIUM VENERIS. EDITED BY  
S. G. OWEN. ILLUSTRATED BY  
J. R. WEGUELIN.

LONDON  
LAWRENCE AND BULLEN,  
16 HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN,  
MDCCCXCIII.

D · M · S  
IOANNI · HENRICO · ONIONS  
NONI · MODO · SVPERFVISSET · RESTITVTORI  
PRIMARIO

*Morte iaces aegra, quo non prudentior alter  
Affectet Latiae pangere vocis opes ;  
Sive quis aggreditur caecos evolvere nodos,  
Dulce Camenarum seu reparare decus.  
Digna merebaris verae praeconia laudis,  
Cognite non dubia, vir sine labe, nota.  
Felix ingenii numeros tibi perficis omnes,  
Hoc solum infelix quod cadis ante diem.  
At meminere tui : non ulla oblivia certe  
Fidus amicorum, scis, patietur amor.*





## PREFACE.

LITTLE is known of the life of Catullus ; his very praenomen is uncertain. It is now usually believed to have been Gaius, and not as has been supposed Quintus. At any rate, if this is so we get an excellent point in 10. 29, *meus sodalis Cinna est Gaius*. 'It's not Gaius Catullus I meant : it's Gaius Cinna' (Palmer, *Classical Review*, 5. 7). Probably the poet's full name was Gaius Valerius Catullus. We need not grieve over our ignorance about this and other matters ; the great central fact for us is the existence of the poetry of Catullus ; of the man himself we must be content to know little beyond what he has told us. He was born at Verona in 87 B.C. or 84 B.C. ; and in position was probably an eques, like so many of the great Roman

men of letters, though from references in his poems it seems that he was not rich (cp. 10. 9-14; 13. 9). He had villas at Tibur and on Sirmio, a peninsula in the lake Benacus (Lago di Garda); but seems to have spent most of his time at Rome. He travelled in the suite of the propraetor Memmius to the province of Bithynia, together with his friend the poet C. Helvius Cinna (10. 30): but failed to reap the profits that he expected from his official position, to which circumstance he more than once bitterly alludes. In politics he belonged, like Cicero, to the party of order, the optimates, and attacks the great democratic leader Caesar with unworthy abuse; for which we are assured by Suetonius that Caesar forgave him with his usual clemency (Suct. *Iul.* 73, *Valerium Catullum a quo sibi versiculis de Mamurra* (Catull. 29. 57) *perpetua stigmata imposita non dissimulaverat, satis facientem eadem die adhibuit cenae hospitioque patris eius, sicut consueverat, uti perseveravit*). He had many literary friends: Cornelius Nepos, to whom he dedicates his poems; the orators Hortensius and Cicero, of the