

Titel: Ancient and Modern Readings of Catullus

Sprache: Englisch

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Abstract:

My paper discusses the consequences of two pragmatic factors that mark turning points of the reception of ancient literary texts: modes of writing, and reading, and translations.

Analyses of poetry are almost always based on modern printed editions which offer the reader access to a short piece at a glance. Discussions are determined by the interpreter's knowledge of the whole poem. The ancient mode of writing, by contrast, compelled poets to compose their works for a linear reception, for listening to, or slowly reading, one word after the other. Most likely poets played with this mode of reception.

Furthermore, ancient literature was often received by way of translations, which are subject to contemporary style, literature and ways of thinking. Thus the translators' ways of thinking shaped the images of ancient authors and their works. Fresh readings of some of Catullus' poems will demonstrate the impact of these two factors.