

TITLE:

Reading commentaries as reception: Reception theory as a challenge to the history of scholarship

LANGUAGE: English

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ABSTRACT:

Does regarding classical scholarship as reception change the way we conceive and practice the history of scholarship? If so, what are the implications? In this paper I shall address these questions by looking at commentaries on Latin poetry as reception, in particular the Roman elegist Sulpicia. The main argument is that looking at commentaries as reception indeed has the potential of changing the way we write the history of scholarship. One of the implications of such a change is the change of focus from the institution and the scholar to the classical text itself. A change of focus which, I shall argue, might bring us closer to an understanding of the actual scholarship and its history.