

Virtual CAMWS: 2020,

Rebekah Fisher,

The University of Notre Dame,

[rfishe22@nd.edu](mailto:rfishe22@nd.edu)

Abstract:

<https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2020/abstracts/2310WealthWomenWhores.pdf>

Wealth, Women, and Whores: The Interaction between Money and Women in Catullus

1. Catullus, 13. 7-8:

*nam tui Catulli, plenus sacculus est araneorum*: “The purse of your Catullus is full of cobwebs”

2. Catullus, 23. 26-7:

*sestertia quae soles precari/centum desine*: “Leave off the hundred thousand sesterces which you are accustomed to ask”

3. Catullus, 10. 24:

*ut decuit cinaediorum*: “as befits a sodomite”

4. Catullus, 10. 33:

*insulsa male et molesta vivis*: “you live, stupid and annoying girl, badly”

5. Seneca, *Ad Helviam*, 16. 3:

*non te . . . periculosa etiam probis peiorum detorsit imitatio*: “A dangerous imitation of worse things did not bend you also to wickedness”

6. Catullus, 37. 1-8 and 11-16

*Salax taberna vosque contubernales,  
a pilleatis nona fratribus pila,  
solis putatis esse mentulas vobis,  
solis licere quidquid est puellarum  
confutuere et putare ceteros hircos?  
an, continenter quod sedetis insulsi  
centum an ducenti, non putatis ausurum  
me una ducentos irrumare sessores?*

...

*puella nam mi, quae meo sinu fugit,  
amata tantum quantum amabitur nulla,  
pro qua mihi sunt magna bella pugnata,  
consedit istic. hanc boni beatique  
omnes amatis, et quidem, quod indignum est,  
omnes pusilli et semitarii moechi:*

Salacious tavern and your companions,  
At the ninth pillar from the cap-wearing brothers<sup>1</sup>  
You think the genitalia are yours alone,  
It pleases only you to lie with whatever there is of girls,  
And to think the rest are he-goats?  
Or because one or two hundred of you tasteless ones  
Sit together, do you not think that I alone  
Would dare to force oral sex on two hundred spectators?

...

For my girl, who flees my lap,  
Loved as much as no girl will be loved,  
For whom great wars were fought by me

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<sup>1</sup> Castor and Pollux

Also sets herself up there. All you good and fortunate men  
Love her, and certainly, what's unfit,  
You're all very small alleyway adulterers.

7. Cicero, *Pro Caelio*, 49

*si quae non nupta mulier domum suam patefecerit omnium cupiditati palamque sese in meretricia vita conlocarit, virorum alienissimorum conviviis uti instituerit, si hoc in urbe, si in hortis, si in Baiarum illa celebritate faciat, si denique ita sese gerat non incessu solum sed ornatu atque comitatu, non flagrantia oculorum, non libertate sermonum, sed etiam complexu, osculatione, actis, navigatione, conviviis, ut non solum meretrix sed etiam proterva meretrix procaxque videatur: cum hac si qui adulescens forte fuerit, utrum hic tibi, L. Herenni, adulter an amator, expugnare pudicitiam an explere libidinem voluisse videatur?*

If any non-married woman received the desires of all at her own home and openly arranges herself in the life of a adulteress, so that she plans for the dinner parties of the most strange men, if that woman acts with a crowd in the city, in the gardens, or in Baiae, if, finally, she bears herself thus not only with her gait, but with adornment and retinue, and seems to be not only a whore, but a shameless and bold one not only because of her desire of eyes, nor her freeness of speech, but also with embrace, kisses, deeds, movements, and banquets: if any young man is, by chance, with her, does he seem to be an adulterer or a lover to you, Lucinius Herennus? Does he seem to want to seduce chastity, or to fulfill pleasure?

Please note that all translations are the author's own.

For further communication please contact by e-mail at [rfishe22@nd.edu](mailto:rfishe22@nd.edu)

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