

Current Trends in Ovid's Exile Literature: An Introduction

Despite accounting for nearly half of the Ovidian corpus, Ovid's exile literature still is, shamefully, understudied. In fact, at one point in time, Ovid's exile literature was a forgotten topic, used mainly as historical evidence for the horrors of exile from Rome and as fodder for larger more political and social analysis. Little to no attention was paid to the literary merits of these works. Yet, with the studies of Nagle (1980), Evans (1984), Videau-Delibes (1991), and Williams (1994), the scholarly focus on the exile literature has shifted to the literary nature of the works. More recently, such focus has sharpened and much work has been done on issues of intertextuality (Hinds 2006), genre (Gaertner 2007), and the reception of the exile literature both in antiquity and today (Ingleheart 2011).

This paper, as an introduction to a panel on current avenues in scholarship on the exile literature, will ground the discussion in this scholarly background, providing a context for the panel as a whole. In particular, it will outline some main trends in the scholarship and point out some of the commonalities between Ovid's pre- and post-exilic work. Special attention will be paid to the prevailing themes of the panel: genre, intertextuality, and reception.

Select Bibliography

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