

Ad mea tempora: Spatial Romanitas in Ovid's Metamorphoses

This paper brings together several strands of scholarship pertaining to the presentation of time and space in Augustan poetry (Fitzgerald and Spentzou 2018), particularly the poetry of Ovid, and most of all his *Metamorphoses*. The poet's famous injunction to spin a continuous song from the first origin of the world down to his own times (*prima...ab original mundi / ad mea perpetuum deducite tempora carmen*, 1.3–4) activates teleological readings of the *Metamorphoses*, with an arc of continuity and culmination in the epic sweep from Greece and the wider Mediterranean to Italy and Rome. Here Ovid had an immediate precedent in the *Aeneid*, which projects the Rome of Augustus as the *telos* of Aeneas's journey (Hardie 1986; cf. Zanker 1988 for Augustan teleological monumentation). This teleology manifests not only in temporal terms (the underworld procession of famous Romans in book 6; the engravings on the hero's shield in book 8), but also in spatial terms (the overarching relocation from the Troad to Italy; Aeneas' tour of proto-Rome, book 8 again).

The present paper takes stock of how the *Metamorphoses* constructs uniquely Roman spaces where one might least expect to find them. Case studies range from specific (the Olympian Palatine, book 1) to the generic (the death of Actaeon in a natural amphitheater, book 3; Hinds 2002, Curley 2013). Works at the beginning or end of Ovid's career leverage Roman space, or spatial *Romanitas*/Roman-ness (Silk *et al.* 2013), toward the contemporary — think of the urban/urbane backdrops of the *Amores* and the *Ars amatoria* (Ghedini 2015), or the absent presence of Rome in the exile poetry (Curtis 2015). In the *Metamorphoses*, spatial *Romanitas* is often latent, much like a recurring trait that marks a character's transformation from one status to the next. Spaces familiar to Ovid's readers emerge in unfamiliar landscapes as though to chart

the evolution of the *mundus*, its progress from a rough and confused mass (*rudis indigestaque moles*, 1.7) to its final Augustan form.

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