

The Transmission of Catullus

Catullus is the most popular of Roman poets with modern readers because he is seen as modern, immediate, compelling. A contemporary of Cicero, Caesar and Pompey, Catullus lived from about 80-50BC and, in poetry varied in type and meter, wrote about numerous subjects, including his lady-love, of higher social status than of moral fiber, Lesbia (aka Clodia, from one of the oldest, most aristocratic families and married to a woman of the same class.

His output include the kissing poems (Da mihi basia mille), directed to Juventius (a young man of

How did people read Catullus from his own through 4th century AD? He was a very important poet