

Catullus 58
(a poem to his friend M. Caelius Rufus)
Hendecasyllables

Caelī, Lesbia nostra, Lesbia illa,
illa Lesbia, quam Catullus unam
plūs quam sē atque suōs amāvit omnēs,
nunc in quadriviīs et angiportīs
glūbit magnanimī Remī nepōtēs.

Vocabulary

quadrivium, -ī, n. “crossroads”
angiportum, -ī, “lane, alley”
glūbō, glūbere “peel”
magnanimus, -a, -um “great-souled”
nepōs, nepōtis, m. “grandson, descendant”

Catullus 16
(a reply to his critics)
Hendecasyllables

pēdicābō ego vōs et irrumābō
Aurēlī pathice et cinaede Fūrī,
quī mē ex versiculīs meīs putastis,
quod sunt molliculī, parum pudīcum.
nam castum esse decet pium poētam
ipsum, versiculōs nihil necesse est;
quī tum dēnique habent salem ac leporem,
sī sunt molliculī ac parum pudīcī,
et quod prūriat incitāre possunt,
nōn dīcō puerīs, sed hīs pilōsīs
quī dūrōs nequeunt movēre lumbōs.
vōs, quod mīlia multa bāsiōrum
lēgistis, male mē marem putātis?
pēdicābō ego vōs et irrumābō.

Vocabulary

pēdīcō, -āre “sodomize, bugger”

irrumō, -āre “cause someone to perform fellatio”

putō, -āre “think”

mollis, -e “soft”

parum “too little”

pudīcus, -a, -um “chaste, decent”

castus, -a, -um “pure, chaste”

decet, decēre, decuit, impersonal “it is suitable, it is fitting”

sāl, salis, m. “salt”

lepos, lepōris, m. “charm, grace, wit”

prūriō, prūrīre “itch”

incitō, -āre “incite, provoke, stir”

pilōsus, -a, -um “hairy”

nequeō, -īre, īvī / iī “be unable”

lumbus, -ī, m. “groin”

mille, pl. mīlia “thousand”

bāsium, -ī “kiss”

mās, maris, m. “male”