



Friendly Street Poets Inc  
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## Roman Poetry Tribute Competition: Catullus

Closing Date: June 3rd  
 Presentation: July 1st  
 Judge: Jacqueline Clarke

Entrants are to produce a poem which is *inspired by or a tribute to* one of the three poems listed below. They may make use of the translations of the poems supplied overleaf or they may refer to other translations or (if they understand Latin) make use of the originals. Considerable leeway will be given to the adaptation of the Catullan original and contestants may be permitted to adapt the poem(s) to contemporary mores or social situations provided that they reflect the spirit of the Catullan original. Contestants may select one out of the three poems listed or they may write entries on two or all three poems. Each Catullus poem must be treated as a separate entity and there must be no confusion or conflation between them.

The best entry will be awarded the John Bray Roman Poetry Prize (\$100). In addition, two commendations will be given.

### Poems

- A – Catullus Poem 3
- B – Catullus Poem 6
- C – Catullus Poem 101

**AUS \$5 each entry. Or \$10 for three entries.** Overseas entrants may send equiv in US cash at own risk. No foreign cheques. Or send 3 IRCs per entry or 6 IRCs for three entries (plus 1 IRC with SAE for results).

form current to June 2008

**Cheque or money order payable to 'Friendly Street Poets'. Send entries to: Friendly Street Poets Inc PO Box 43, Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000 No entries will be received by email or fax**

Name:..... Email:.....  
 Address:..... Postcode:.....

I agree to abide by the rules of the competition.  
 Signed..... Date..... Phone:.....  
 I have included an SSAE for results, current forms & any awards. YES NO

Catullus Poem	Title or first line/s	\$
	Add an extra page if necessary	Total

### Conditions and Guidelines for Roman Poetry Competition

- Neat, legible presentation, one page per entry. Use paper clips not staples. Don't put your name on your work, only on the entry form.
- Entries must be the original work of the entrant, unpublished, not have won a monetary prize or be under consideration elsewhere.
  - Entry form essential. No limit to number of entries. Enclose fee & and SSAE for results. (DL envelope please 110 x 220mm i.e. one that takes an A4 sheet folded in 3.)
  - Two copies of the entries must accompany entry form and fee.
  - Please keep a copy of your work. All entries will be destroyed after judging. Author retains copyright but we claim the right (if we choose) to publish winning and commended work on the Friendly Street website and in Friendly Street Publications.
  - Prizes are based on literary merit. Judges' rulings are final and no correspondence will ensue. Prizes and fees are in Australian dollars.
  - Notification of winner and commendations (if awarded by the Judges) will be announced at the July meeting of Friendly Street posted on the Friendly Street website and notified by mail to authors who have provided a SSAE.

### Catullus Poem 3

Mourn, you Venuses and Cupids,  
and all the lovers that there are!  
My sweetheart's sparrow is dead,  
the sparrow that was my sweetheart's pet,  
which she loved more than her own eyes:  
for it was honey-sweet, and knew its  
mistress as well as a girl knows her own mother,  
nor would it stir from her lap,  
but hopping about, now here, now there,  
would ever chirp for its mistress alone.  
But now it travels along a darkling path  
to a place from which they say no one returns.  
A curse upon you, accursed darkness  
of Orcus, that consumes all pretty things:  
such a pretty sparrow you have robbed me of.  
Ah cruel event, that through your doing,  
hapless sparrow, my sweetheart's eyes  
are red and swollen with weeping!

Translation by G.P. Goold, *Catullus* 2nd edition  
1989 London; Duckworth

### Catullus Poem 6

Flavius, you would want to tell Catullus of your darling  
if she were not unsophisticated and uncouth –  
you would not be able to keep quiet about her.  
You are in love with some hot little tart  
and are ashamed to admit it.  
For the fact that you are not lying through celibate nights  
is shouted out by your bed, which keeps silent for no reason,  
smelling of garlands and Syrian olive,  
and the pillow dented evenly on one side and the other  
and the shaken creaking of the rickety bed  
and its way of walking across the room.  
It is no use, no use at all keeping quiet about it.  
Why? You would not show such shagged out limbs  
if you were not doing some fooling about.  
So tell us whatever you have, good or bad.  
I want to summon you and your girlfriend  
to the heavens in charming poetry.

Translation by J. Godwin *Catullus: The Shorter  
Poems* 1999 Warminster; Aris and Phillips

### Catullus Poem 101

Travelling through many nations and through many seas  
I have come, brother, for these poor funeral rites,  
That I might render you the last dues of the dead  
And vainly comfort your dumb ashes,  
Because Fortune has robbed me of your self, alas,  
Poor brother, unfairly taken from me.  
But now, meanwhile, accept these gifts which by old  
custom  
Of the ancestors are offered in sad duty  
At funeral rites, gifts drenched in a brother's tears,  
And forever, brother, greetings and farewell.

Translation by G. Lee *The Poems of Catullus*  
1990 Oxford; Clarendon Press