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CATULLUS AND CATULLA IN JUVENAL

Catulla appears at Juvenal 2.49 for a woman who, according to the indignant feminist Laronia, is typically « pure » in her abstention from lesbian oral-genitalism (« Tedia non lambit Cluviam nec Flora Catullam »). The name recurs at 10.322, where Catulla and Oppia are women of the sort who will never deny their libidinous appetites (« quid enim ulla negaverit udis / inguinibus, sive est haec Oppia sive Catulla? »). Perhaps a single, real individual is meant; but positive identification seems impossible¹. However, attention has often been drawn to the Catulla of Martial 8.53 :

« Formosissima quae fuere vel sunt,
sed vilissima quae fuere vel sunt,
o quam te fieri, Catulla, vellem
formosam minus aut magis pudicam! »

It has been suggested that Martial and Juvenal were referring to the same woman².

Consider for a moment an earlier epigram (Martial 6.69), addressed to a Catullus whom Friedländer would distinguish from the republican poet³ :

« Non miror quod potat aquam tua Bassa, Catulle :
miror quod Bassae filia potat aquam. »

I suspect that the poet, mentioned so often by Martial⁴, is alluded to also here at 6.69, and I would offer as evidence Martial 2.50 :

« Quod fellas et aquam potas, nil, Lesbia, peccas.
qua tibi parte opus est, Lesbia, sumis aquam. »

The close likeness between these two couplets makes it difficult to suppose that Martial had in mind any other than *the* Catullus and *the* Lesbia,

1. The Catullae in 2 and 10 are equated by G. A. Ruperti (ed., *D. Junii Iuvenalis Aquinatis Satirae XVI* [Leipzig : 1820] *ad loc.*), Fran. Strauch (*De personis Iuvenalianis* [Göttingen : 1869] 37), L. Friedländer (ed., *D. Junii Iuvenalis saturarum libri V* [Leipzig : 1895] *ad loc.* and *index nominum* : « meretrix »), and A. Stein (*PIR*² C 579 : « femina impudica » — only one other Catulla is catalogued by the editors of *PIR*, Octavia Catulla, *PIR*² O 46, daughter of Publius Octavius and wife of Celadus, an important freedman of Augustus). The name, Collic or a diminutive from *Cato*, is common : see I. Kajanto, *The Latin Cognomina* [Helsinki : 1965] 250.

2. So Ruperti and Strauch, *ibid.* : the name occurs only in these two Latin poets.
3. Friedländer also distinguishes the Catullus of Mart. 12.73 : see the *indices nominum* to his edition of the Epigrams (*M. Valerii Martialis epigrammaton libri* [Leipzig : 1886]).

4. See Friedländer's *index nominum* (Mart.) 367 : he lists over twenty passages.

despite Friedländer¹. That Lesbia/Clodia was worthy of the title *fellatrix* is sufficiently evident from Catullus 58.5 : « (Lesbia) *glubit magnanimi Remi nepotes* ».²

Martial 2.50 and 6.69 are worth noting, both because of Friedländer's misinterpretation, and also as an illustration of the epigrammatist's allusions to things Catullan : Martial is quite willing to invoke Catullus' once-beloved, and to make her the brunt of one of his obscene accusations. Now, to return to the epigram cited above, Martial 8.53 is unquestionably reminiscent of Catullus, especially 21.2f, 24.2f and 49.2f³. And I would suggest that Martial may well mean *Catulla* here as the equivalent of *Catullana* or *Catulli amica*, Lesbia that is, the same woman he calls *fellatrix* in 2.50 : the name-play itself recalls Catullus, who labels Clodius Pulcher *Lesbius*, « Lesbia's boy », in poem 79.

If Juvenal did, at 2.49 (and 10.322?), have Martial's *Catulla* in his thoughts, as several commentators have surmised, he must surely have sensed the allusion to Lesbia and borrowed it for Laronia's tirade against homosexuals and their foul practices (especially *fellatio*). « *Catulla* » (Juvenal 2.49 and 10.322) may have been a « hot number » and even a *fellatrix*, but at least her interests (like Laronia's, if we are to believe her) were in the opposite sex⁴.

1. Friedländer would not identify the Lesbia of 2.50 with Catullus' mistress, who is clearly meant in 6.34, 7.14, 8.73, 12.44 and 59, and 14.77 : in these six poems Lesbia is always mentioned with Catullus, always kindly, never directly addressed. The same editor distinguishes also the Lesbia(s) of 1.34, 5.68, 6.23, 10.39, 11.62 and 99 : here, as in 2.50, Catullus is not mentioned, and Lesbia is nearly always addressed and insulted — hence Friedländer's distinction. But why should Martial not address Lesbia, as a type, and why should he not reflect both faces of the portrait Catullus had colored so vividly?

2. While *glubit* may not be the precise equivalent of *fellat*, it can at least suggest *fellatio* : it is perhaps significant that Catullus' single use of the verb *fellare* occurs in the poem immediately following (59.1 : *Nonionensis Rufa Rufulum fellat*), where the poet exhibits his skill at name-play.

3. 21.2f : *sed quot aut fuerunt / Aut sunt aut aliis erunt in annis* ; 24.2f : *sed quot aut fuerunt / Aut posthac aliis erunt in annis* ; 49.2f : *Quot sunt quotque fuere, Marce Tulli, / Quoique post aliis erunt in annis*. The likeness of Martial 8.53 to these lines from Catullus has been noted by W. C. A. Ker, ed. *Martial Epigrams* (London : 1961), and Friedländer, *ad loc.*

4. If *Catullan* is meant as an allusion to Lesbia, what of *T(a)edia*, *Cluviam* and *Flora*, in the same line? Juvenal is fond of such clusters of names as this one at 2.49f (in fact, they are especially plentiful in *Satire Two* : cf. 24ff, 68ff, 145f, 153f) ; an examination of the use of names in Book One of the *Satires* reveals, however, that Juvenal does not feel obliged to select or treat each name within a pair or cluster in just the same way. While no completely satisfactory explanation exists for the choice of names at 2.49f, we should at least note the possibility that Juvenal has Laronia shouting names that are *exempla* for loose (but not « unnatural ») women : *Catulla* is Lesbia, the notorious mistress of Catullus ; *Flora* is Pompey's favorite courtesan, whose physical attractiveness was so renowned (Plut., *Pomp.* 2.3-5, 52.2 : cf. Münzer, *RE* « *Flora* » [2], and Friedländer on Juvenal 2.49 ; « *Flora* » may also have been intended to recall the ancient goddess of flowering and the licentious *Floralia*, a holiday for prostitutes) ; *Cluvia* is the reformed Capuan *meretrix* who furnished Roman prisoners with food and supplies during the second Punic War and was rewarded by the senate (so Forcellini, *Onomasticon*, s. v. « » : Livy 26.33f, Val. Max. 5.2.1). We are at a loss, however, to produce such a *T(a)edia*. If the reading *Mevia*

A further example of Juvenal's playful allusion to the Catullan tradition may be seen at 4.113-118 :

« et cum mortifero prudens Veiento Catullo,
qui numquam visae flagrabat amore puellae,
grande et conspicuum nostro quoque tempore monstrum,
caecus adulator dirusque ꝑa ponteꝑ satelles,
dignus Aricinos qui mendicaret ad axes
blandaque devexae iactaret basia raedae. »

The satirist introduces among Domitian's « fish councillors » a blind sycophant and murderous villain named Catullus, who must be L. Valerius Catullus Messalinus, consul with Domitian in A. D. 73 and again perhaps *suffectus* in 85¹. One of Pliny's letters attests both to the man's blindness and to his vicious activities during Domitian's reign². This Catullus was almost certainly connected with the family of the Veronese poet³ ; and this connection (whether real or only suggested by the name) is emphasized by Juvenal through verbal techniques meant to recall Catullan verse. Line 114, while pointing to the rogue's actual blindness, is reminiscent of the themes of the earlier Catullus' poetry and a parody of such lines as 67.25 :

« Sive quod impia mens caeco flagrabat amore. »

The *caecus amator* is suggested by Juvenal's *caecus adulator* (116). Nor could one miss the echo of Catullan love-poetry in *basia* (118), a word that occurs elsewhere in Juvenal only at 6.384⁴. The late Professor B. L. Ullman also noted the significance of *basia* here, adding that « Juve-

is retained, *Mevia Galla* comes to mind, the mistress of Munatius Plancus (*PIR*² M 415b), a woman from roughly the same period as *Catulla/Lesbia* and *Flora*. But if we read *T(a)edia*, as we probably should, the theory seems to break down : yet it is possible that some infamous *T(a)edia* was suited to the passage, though we have otherwise lost notice of her. Or it can be that Juvenal selected the name as a pun on *taedium*, « Miss Louthsona ». This device was not foreign to Juvenal, as has been generally supposed : Gilbert Highet has pointed to the echo of *hispida membra*, 2.11, in *Hispa*, the name that completes the cluster at 2.49f (*Juvenal the Satirist* [Oxford : 1954] 292) ; and the chance of an intended etymological pun renders more attractive the reading *Laronia* at 2.36 (a suggestion made to me by L. Richardson, Jr.), where « Miss Baying-bitch » would be appropriate for one of Juvenal's *ultima viia* who, when chastised, « bite back » (*castigata remordent* : 2.35).

1. See J. Crook, *Consilium Principis* (Cambridge : 1955) no. 328 ; also R. Syme, *Tacitus* (Oxford : 1958) 638f ; *PJR*² V 41 ; R. Manslik, *RE* « *Valerius* » [127] ; distinct from the Catullus, proconsul of Crete and Cyrene, who suppressed the Jewish rebellion in Cyrene in 73, although identified with him by E. Ritterling, « Military Forces in the Senatorial Provinces », *JRS* 17 (1927) 29 — see Grong in *PJR*² C 582 (the same conflation occurs in *Smith's Dictionary*). Also distinct from other Catulli in Juvenal, the mimographus of 8.186 and 13.111 (*PJR*² C 581 ; *RE* « *Catullus* » [2]), and the *amicus poetae*, 12.29, 37, 93 (*PJR*² C 583 ; *RE* « *Catullus* » [4]).

2. *Ep.* 4.22.25f : on which see A. N. Sherwin-White, *The Letters of Pliny* (Oxford : 1968) *ad loc.* and p. 743 ; cf. Syme, *Tacitus*, 5f. Juvenal was safe : Catullus was dead before Pliny's letter was written, A. D. 97 or 98, as, of course, was his *dominus*, Domitian.

3. Cf. Manslik, *op. cit.* (n. above) ; Syme, *Tacitus*, 59f, n. 9, « not perhaps a blood relation ».

4. For *basium*, *basiatio* and *basiare* in Catullus, see poems 5, 7, 8, 16, 48 and 99.

nal's *villa*, *Catullo*, *puellae*, and *satelles* in 112, 113, 114, 116 can hardly be attributed to chance » in view of Catullus' own fondness for these -II-sounds at lines' end¹. This entire passage exhibits well Juvenal's close and careful attention to the selection and disposition of the personal names in his Satires.

Richard A. LAFLEUR.

1. « Miscellaneous Comments on Juvenal », in *The Classical Tradition : Studies in Honor of Harry Caplan* (Ithaca : 1966) 280.
