

## OVID REVISITED

THE POET IN EXILE



JO-MARIE CLAASSEN

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**An essential collection of work from the leading scholar on Ovid in exile.**

In time for the bimillennium of Ovid's relegation to Tomis on the Black Sea by the emperor Augustus in 8 AD, Jo-Marie Claassen here revises and integrates into a more popular format two decades of scholarship on Ovid's exile. Some twenty articles and reviews from scholarly journals have been shortened, rearranged and merged into seven chapters, which, together with some new material, offer a wide-ranging overview of the exiled poet and his works. *Ovid Revisited* treats the poems from exile as the literary culmination of Ovid's oeuvre, ascribing the poet's resilience in the face of extreme hardship to the relief that his poetry afforded him.

An introduction considers the phenomenon of Ovid's continued popularity, explains the importance of chronology in reading the exilic poems and gives a brief summary of the contents of the *Tristia* and *Epistulae ex Ponto*. Topics range from consideration of Ovid's relationship with the emperor and with his own poetry, to his ubiquitous humour, to his skill as poet, metrics, vocabulary and verbal play, and to his use of mythological figures from earlier parts of his oeuvre. The degree to which Ovid universalised the sufferings of the dispossessed is assessed in a chapter comparing the exilic works with modern exilic literature. The last chapter reworks a series of recent book reviews, indicating various directions in Ovidian studies today.

**Jo-Marie Claassen** was Associate Professor in the Department of Ancient Studies at Stellenbosch University until she retired in 2001. She is the author, inter alia, of *Displaced Persons: the literature of exile from Cicero to Boethius* (1999) and of many academic articles.

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