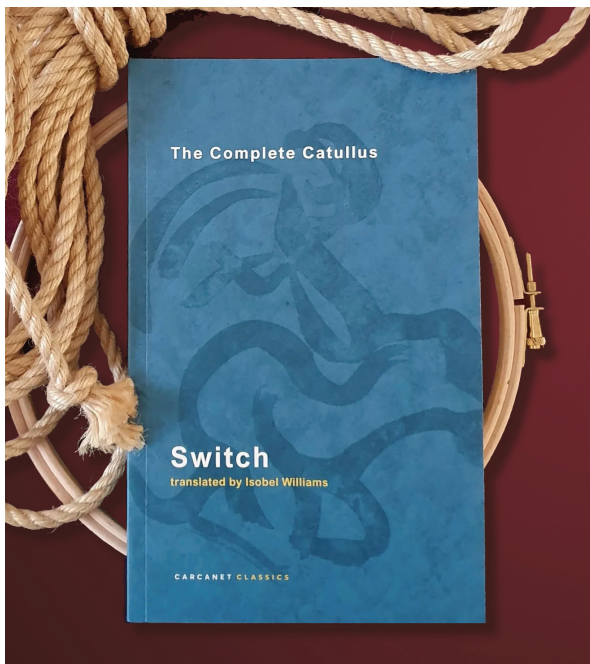


CATULLUS BOUND

EXHIBITION OF SHIBARI DRAWINGS
BY ISOBEL WILLIAMS AND BOOKS
TIED TO THE ROMAN POET

Hellenic and Roman Library lobby
Institute of Classical Studies
Senate House
London WC1E 7HU
Michaelmas term 2023



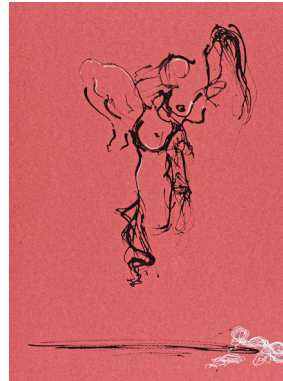
Switch: The Complete Catullus by Isobel Williams (Carcanet Classics) puts free translations in a context of Japanese rope bondage (shibari), as a metaphor for the poet's conflict between dominance and submission. Isobel sketches live performances of shibari, and most of her mixed-media drawings here are illustrations in the book.

The captions in this leaflet name the person being tied, then the rigger, who is not always shown.
**'Being a top is about transformation and humility.
Being a bottom is about transformation and power.'**

Gorgone, shibaristudy.com

The books exhibited, from the collections of the Hellenic and Roman Library and Senate House Library, trace Catullus, his influence, and bondage imagery.

Showcase 1



*Tenshiko,
Kirigami*



*Kitty Rea,
Nina Russ*

Switch: The Complete Catullus

Translated and illustrated by Isobel Williams
Carcanet Classics, 2023

Troy: myth and reality

Thames & Hudson/The British Museum, 2019

Displayed open at the Siren Vase; Roman fresco;
Etruscan funerary urn; all British Museum.

Odysseus commands his followers to bind him to the mast so that he can hear the Sirens without obeying their call to self-destruction.

The Poetry of Kissing in Early Modern Europe

Alex Wong
D.S. Brewer, 2017

Showcase 2



*Billie Rose,
Dry Sin*



Unknown



*Zlata,
Red Lily*



*Isabell,
Koi Ku Nawa*



*Kitty Rea,
Nina Russ*

C. Valerii Catulli Opera

[Albii Tibulli equitis Romani elegiarum libri quatuor. Sexti Aurelii Propertii equitis Romani elegiarum libri quatuor.] Interpretatione et notis illustravit Philippus Silvius T.E.C.P. Jussu Christianissimi Regis in usum Serenissimi Delphini.
Parisiis: M.DC.LXXXV. [1685]

The gift of the Constitutional Club Library, 31.3.1955; presented to them by The Right Honourable Lord Colchester, 1887.

Poems, &c. by John Donne, late Dean of St. Pauls Henry Herringman, 1669

Holy Sonnet XIV

Batter my heart, three-person'd God; for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o'rthrow me, and bend
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurpt Town to another due,
Labour to admit you, but oh, to no end;
Reason your Viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you and would be lov'd fain,
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

Hesperides, or, The works both humane & divine of Robert Herrick, Esq. John Williams and Francis Eglesfield, 1648

The Braclet to Julia.

Why I tye about thy wrist,
Julia, this my silken twist;
For what other reason is't
But to shew thee how in part,
Thou my pretty Captive art?
But thy Bondsslave is my heart:
'Tis but silke that bindeth thee,
Knap the thread, and thou art free:
But 'tis otherwise with me;
I am bound, and fast bound so,
That from thee I cannot go;
If I co'd, I wo'd not so.

Showcase 3



*Afsana,
Rija Mae*



*Afsana,
Rija Mae*



*Miss Bones,
Fred Hatt*



*Miss Bones,
Fred Hatt*



*Ayumi
LaNoire
and ribbon,
Nina Russ*

Le Livre d'amour des anciens

Bibliothèque des Curieux, Paris, 1912

From the Craig Collection

The British writer and poet Alec Craig (1897-1973) collected books on sexuality and erotica, including banned or censored works which now demonstrate changing attitudes to what is taboo. Catullus has frequently been censored.

Poetry and Bondage: A History and Theory of Lyric Constraint

Andrea Brady

Cambridge University Press, 2021

Swinging Catullx

Teesside Catullus versions

Maureen Almond

Iffley Press, 2023

Living Classics: Greece and Rome in Contemporary Poetry in English

Edited by S.J. Harrison

Oxford University Press, 2009

Displayed open at Maureen Almond's version of Horace Epode 2

Showcase 4



Left:
Sophia Rose,
Miss Bones.
Right:
Niyouli,
Chantal



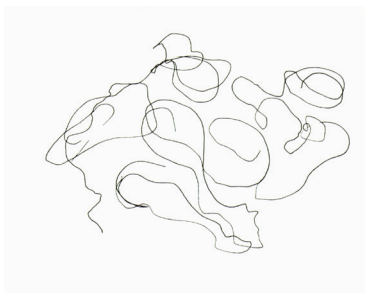
Isabell,
Koi Ku Nawa



Left: MaYa
Homerton



Ada La Venom,
Bruce Esinem



Isabell,
Koi Ku Nawa

The Baskerville Virgil

Publii Virgilii Maronis Bucolica,
Georgica et Æneis.

Birminghamiæ: Typis Johannis Baskerville,
MDCCLVII [1757]

Gaskell, P. John Baskerville, 1

The gift of Walter Leaf (1852-1927), chairman of the Westminster Bank, 1918-1927. Homeric editor and scholar, folklorist and bibliophile. Dec. 1925.

This exhibition leaflet uses a version of the Baskerville typeface created by John Baskerville (1706-75). For his renowned edition of Virgil, he asked James Whatman the Elder (1702-59) to produce a new smooth wove paper, facilitating the 'kiss impression' – the lightest possible pressure of printing on the surface.

B (After Dante)

Translated by Ned Denny
Carcenet Press, 2021

'Hands tied behind with living ropes that reared to hiss at their loins where head and tail were knotted tight'

Plato: The Statesman, Philebus

(translation by Harold N. Fowler);

Ion

(translation by W.R.M. Lamb)

London: Heinemann; New York: Putnam, 1925

Plato in twelve volumes; 3

Loeb classical library 164

From **Ion**:

'One poet is suspended from one Muse, another from another: [536b] the word we use for it is "possessed," but it is much the same thing, for he is held. And from these first rings — the poets — are suspended various others, which are thus inspired, some by Orpheus and others by Musaeus; but the majority are possessed and held by Homer.'

With thanks to Joanna Ashe and Paul Jackson of the Hellenic and Roman Library/Institute of Classical Studies, Lucy Evans and Salvador Alcántara Peláez of Senate House Library, and Sophia Rose (www.venushour.co.uk).

isobelwilliams.org.uk