Aristaenetus, Erotic Letters

Peter Bing and Regina Höschele

The first complete English translation of Aristaenetus in nearly three centuries

Through allusion and adaption of earlier authors, Aristaenetus recounts tales that are the stuff of comedy, erotic poetry, and ancient novel. Here we read of lovers who use every trope of erotic literature to praise their beloveds in over-the-top speeches. Aristaenetus amazes us with tales of paramours hatching complicated schemes to achieve their desires, while wily go-betweens help smooth their way. He presents us with accounts of unfaithful spouses who barely avoid capture in the midst of hair-raising and amusing infidelities. This sixth century collection is perfect for anyone interested in classical and postclassical literature.

Features:
• English translation and Greek text on facing pages
• Background introduction with history of the text
• Discussion of intertextual connections with Greco-Roman authors

Peter Bing is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of the Classics at Emory University. His books include The Well-Read Muse: Present and Past in Callimachus and the Hellenistic Poets (Michigan Classics Press), The Scroll and The Marble: Studies in Reading and Reception in Hellenistic Poetry (University of Michigan Press), and the co-authored Games of Venus: An Anthology of Greek and Roman Erotic Verse from Sappho to Ovid (Routledge).

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