



# The Love Poems: The Amores, Ars Amatoria and Remedia Amoris

*Ovid*

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**The Love Poems - Ovid.** A translation into English by **A. S. Kline**. Published with illustrations (various).

The *Amores* was Ovid's first book of poetry, consisting of love elegies, involving the possibly-fictitious *Corinna*. Mildly subversive it was published in 16BC, in five books, but later edited by Ovid into its surviving three-book form. Ovid makes extensive use of humour and parody to celebrate the elegy as a creative mode as deserving of immortality as the Virgilian epic. His gentle humanism is always evident throughout.

*The Art of Love, Ars Amatoria*, was written in 2AD as a series of elegies purporting to teach young men and women how to succeed in the game of lovemaking. Provocative and light-hearted in tone, it caused offence, and was possibly a factor in, or at least an excuse for, Ovid's later banishment by Augustus. The whole work gives a lively view of Augustan Rome, while exhibiting the typical charm and beauty of Ovid's verse.

*The Cures for Love, Remedia Amoris*, is a companion piece to the *Art of Love*, suggesting ways of evading the pain of love, and ending relationships. However subtle use of the elegiac form tends to operate counter to this aim, rendering the work as much a celebration of relationship as a series of poems against it. Ovid, the 'Master of Love', is here the Doctor, though one in whose cures one suspects he himself placed little faith.

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