

CESTA research anthology 2022

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Style and Language Amid the Fragments of Early Latin Literature by Brandon Bark (Classics)

1: *Ann.* 1 Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum

Varro, *LL* 7.5–20: [5] dicam in hoc libro de verbis quae a poetis sunt posita, primum de locis ... [20] 'Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum'. caelum dicunt Graeci Olympum, montem in Macedonia omnes; a quo potius puto Musas dictas Olympiadas: ita enim ab terrestribus locis aliis cognominatae Libethrides, Pipleides, Thespiades, Heliconides.

Serv. Aen. 11.660 (quales Threiciae cum flumina Thermodontis/pulsant et pictis bellantur Amazones armis,/seu circum Hippolyten seu cum se Martia curru/Penthesilea refert, magnoque ululante tumultu/feminea exsultant lunatis agmina peltis): PULSANT Ennius ad Musas (Ennius Musae *A Sang.*) 'quae pedibus (pedibus *om.* *A Sang.*) pulsatis Olympum'.

A screenshot of the index of Jackie Elliott's *Ennius and the Architecture of the Annales* (Cambridge 2013), which we used as the starting point for our spreadsheet.

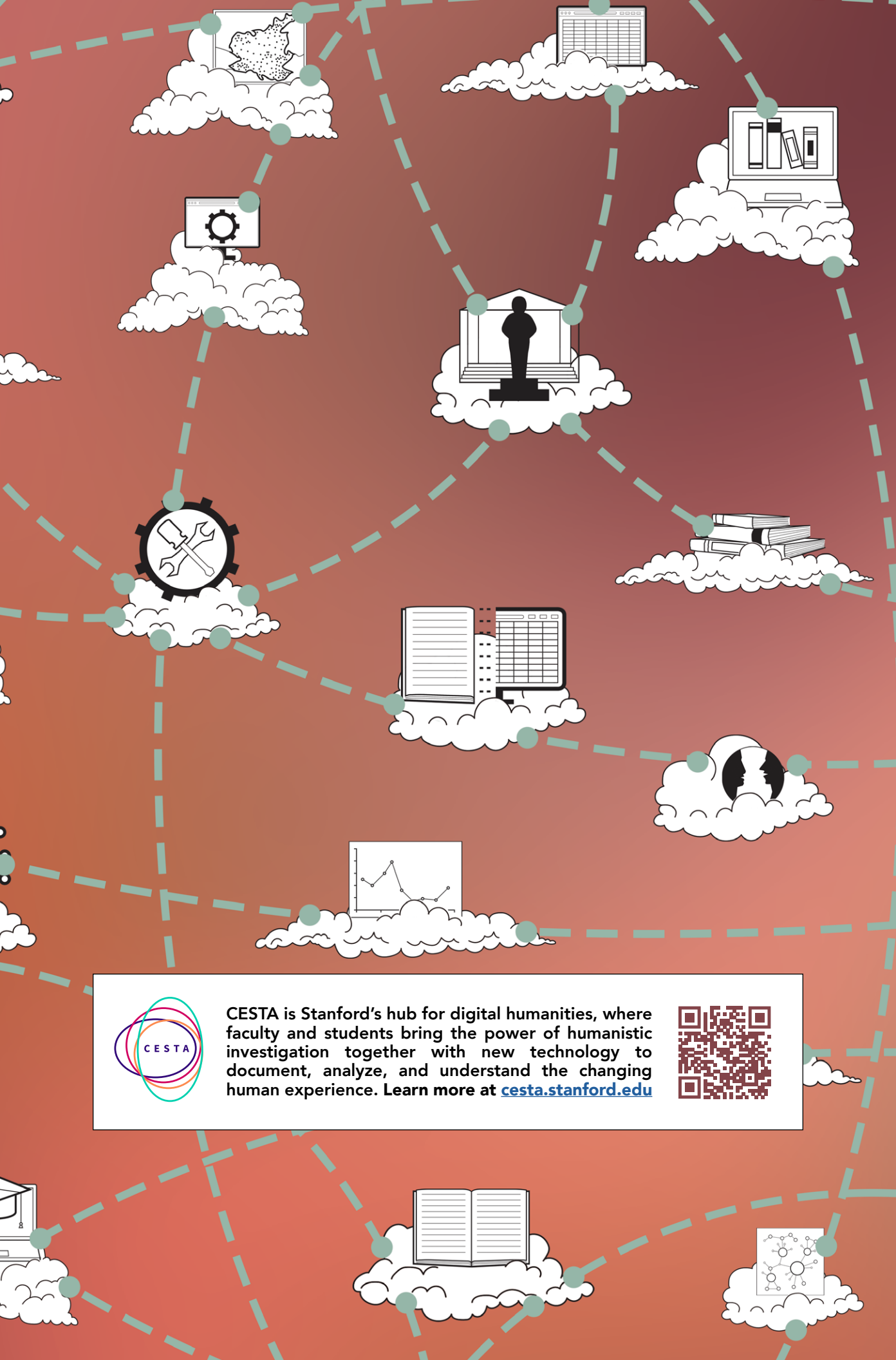
Fragment	Citing Author	Citing Work	Citing Work Loc.	Citing
Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	7.5–20	dicam
Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum	Serv.	<i>ad Verg. Aen.</i>	11.66	quales
Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum	Varr.	<i>RR</i>	1.14	quonia
terraeque corpus quae dedit ipsa capit neque dispendi i Varr.	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	5.57–60	[57] m
terraeque corpus quae dedit ipsa capit neque dispendi i Varr.	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	5.111	quod f
terraeque corpus quae dedit ipsa capit neque dispendi i Varr.	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	9.53–4	[53] qf
ova parire solet genus pennis condecoratum non anima Varr.	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	5.57–60	[57] qf
ova parire solet genus pennis condecoratum non anima Diom.	Diom.	<i>GLK</i>	1.383	pario c
Saturnia terra	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	5.41 2	[41] ut
quam Prisci, casci populi, tenuere Latini	Varr.	<i>LL</i>	7.26 8	[26] ...

A screenshot of the spreadsheet of Ennian verses, the later sources who cited them, and the nature of the citation.

Much of ancient Greek and Latin literature survives piecemeal—in small soundbites that later authors who had some access to the original work quoted in their own writings. For example, one of the initial verses of an epic poem called the *Annales* by the 2nd-century Latin poet Quintus Ennius (c.239–169 BCE)—“Musae quae pedibus magnum pulsatis Olympum” (“Muses, you who beat great Olympus with your feet”)—comes to us thanks to Marcus Terentius Varro (116–27 BCE), who quotes the verse in a section of his treatise *On the Latin Language* (7.20) where he is discussing toponyms: “Olympus”, he argues, “is the name which the Greeks give to the sky, and which everyone calls a mountain in Macedonia...”. Our project aimed to digitally track and classify how, where, when, and why Ennius’ poetry had been transmitted over the centuries, in a way that would improve upon existing means of capturing these relationships.

My research intern, Antony Bui, and I created a spreadsheet that first noted the Ennian verse and the later source who cited it. We then tried to capture the principal interest of the citing source: lexicological, antiquarian, scientific, literary, etc. We then asked what was the “trigger” that motivated the citation—what was it about the Ennian verse that caused a later source to quote it? Finally, we converted this verbal description of the trigger into a repeatable formula: did the quoted line “illustrate”, “corroborate”, or “augment” a point the quoting source intended to make; or did it “pose” a question he wanted to ask; or did it offer a “contrast” to his own view?

In future, we hope to extend this analysis to many other ancient literary corpora, to better understand and document the relationships between ancient intellectuals over the centuries.



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