



COVER IMAGE: a detail from the final leaf of the incunabular *Catullus* of Simon Bevilaque (Venice 1493), with the marginal notes of Antonius Parthenius, this poet's first editor. Another leaf of the same edition can be seen on page 114. A vigorous dialogue between text and marginal commentary was from the beginning a key element in scholarly publishing, the editor pressing against, and often literally embracing, the poetry. It seemed appropriate, in a volume of historical poems, to borrow from this ancient tradition, encouraging text, illustration, and commentary to carry on a conversation: bread and caviar in one mouthful.