

Turner, J.M.W. *Ancient Italy – Ovid Banished from Rome*. 1838. Oil on canvas. Private collection.

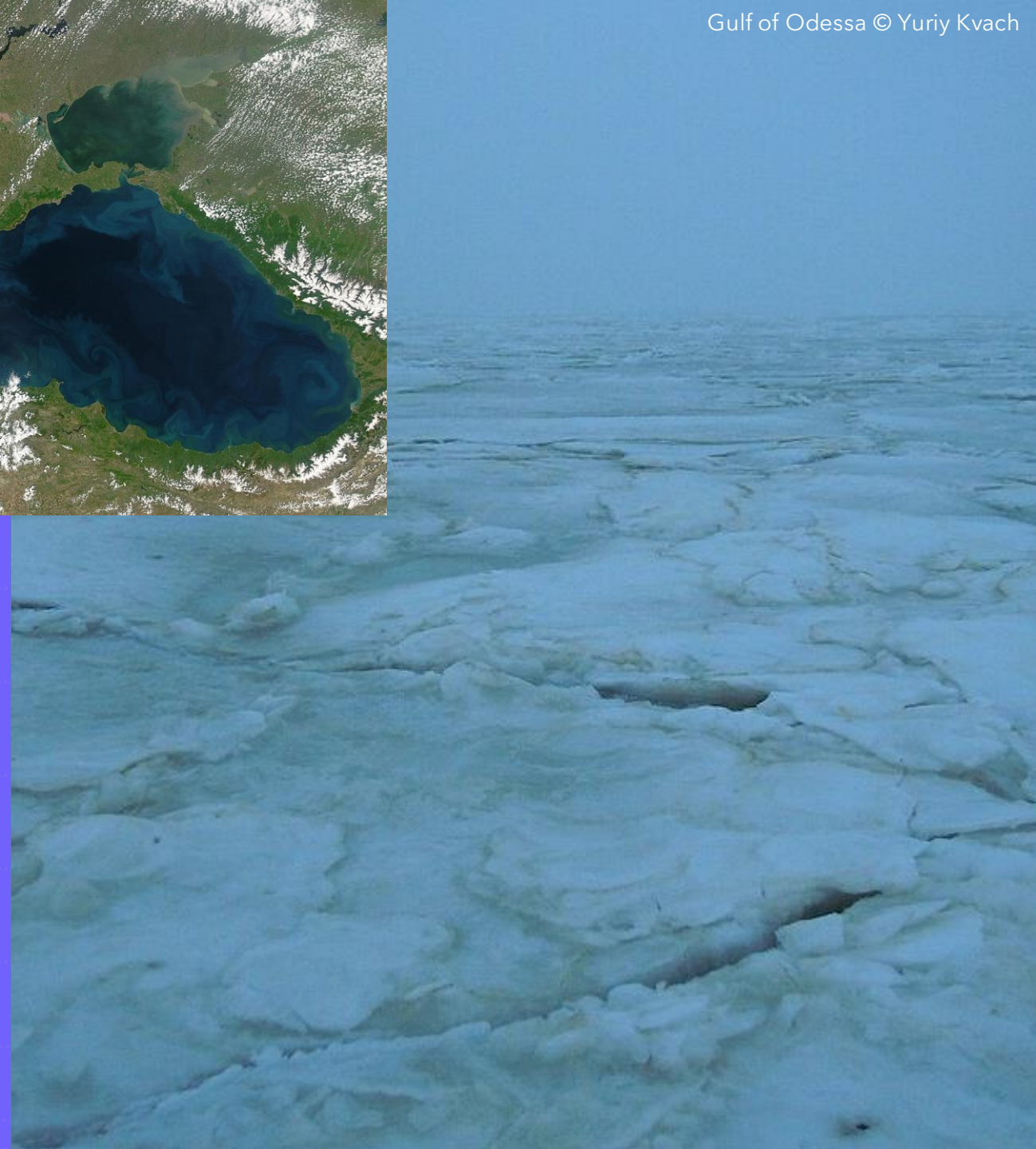
Artistic Liberation in Exile: Ovid's Bid for Immortality

Nathan Budge

Ovid: an Inspiring Poet in Uninspiring Circumstances



- How does Ovid continue his art after being banished?
- How does Ovid reshape his legacy in response to exile?
- *All translations are my own unless otherwise noted*



Ovid: the Self-Aware Poet

- Experiments with love elegy (*Amores*), epistolary elegy (*Heroides*), and didactic poetry (*Fasti*)
- Links myth through transformation in *Met.*

Ferrari, Francesco Bianchi. *Arion Riding on a Dolphin*. c. 1509/1510. Tempera and oil on panel. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. (Cropped from original.)

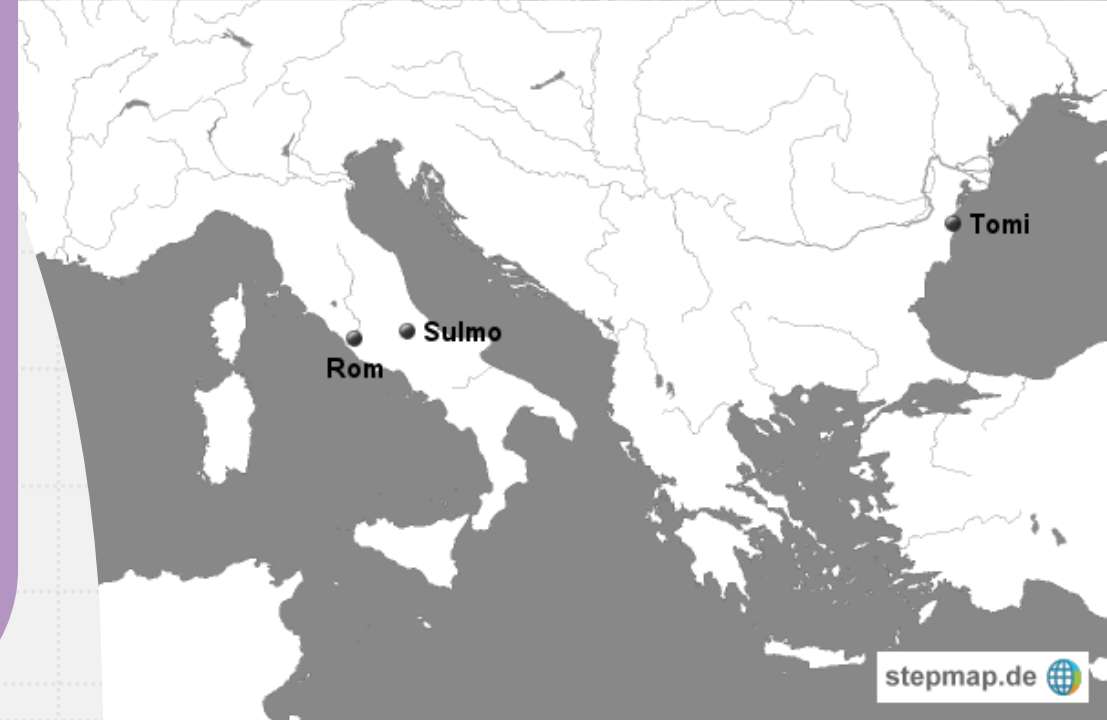


Ovid's Poetic Transformation

- **Incorporates themes from *Met.* to convey identity in exile** (*I also confess that I fear the weapons of Zeus, which I have felt*)
- **Reframes unfinished *Met.* as inferior due to exile** (*Whatever of flaw, therefore, the rough poem will have in these verses, / I was about to correct [them], if it had been permitted*)



Reinterpreting Exile Poetry



- **Purports epic scale journey** (*Learned poets, write down my sorrows instead of Odysseus: / For I have endured more sorrows than him*)
- **Often alludes to myth** (*The region denies fruits, nor would Acontius have, an apple on which / he might write here words to be read by his own mistress*)
- **Expresses misery through command of meter** (*Ov. Tr. 3.2.17-20; 3.1.11-16*)

Ovid's Legacy

- Transforms exile into his Muse
- Shows resilience as clever poet
- Leaves an enduring mystery about the facts of his exile



Bibliography

- Claasen, Jo-Marie. *Ovid Revisited: The Poet in Exile*. London: Gerald Duckworth & Co., 2008.
- Hinds, Stephen. "Booking the Return Trip: Ovid and 'Tristia' 1." *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society*, no. 31 (211) (1985): 13-32. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44696926>.
- McGowan, Matthew M. *Ovid in Exile: Power and Poetic Redress in the Tristia and Epistulae ex Ponto*. Mnemosyne Supplements 308. Leiden: Brill, 2009.
- Thibault, John C. *The Mystery of Ovid's Exile*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1964.