Consisting of four books of elegiac verse on aetiological issues, the *Aetia* was Callimachus's most important work. A highly influential poem in antiquity, it contains some of Callimachus's most cherished poems, like the two remarkable celebrations of Queen Berenice II, the *Victory of Berenice* and the *Lock of Berenice*. The *Aetia* unfortunately survives in a more or less fragmented state of preservation, but thanks to the papyrus finds our understanding of it has considerably increased during the recent decades. The strength and value of Giulio Massimilla's *Callimaco. Aitia: libro terzo e quarto*, a follow-up to his volume on the first and second books of the *Aetia* (1996), is that it incorporates these new findings into a single volume.

Like the 1996 volume, this one also opens with a bibliography and a perhaps too concise introduction on the arrangement of books III and IV, accompanied by notes on metre and prosody. It is followed by the text of the *Aetia*, which differs little from that of Pfeiffer's 1949 text in *Callimachus* I and that in the *Supplementum Hellenisticum* by Lloyd-Jones – Parsons (1983). However, Massimilla adds a large number of sublinear dots which indicate an uncertain letter. Massimilla has also given a new numbering to the fragments, and the book ends with useful *comparationes numerorum* between Massimilla, Pfeiffer and Lloyd-Jones – Parsons. After the text of the *Aetia* follows an Italian translation of the fragments and an extensive commentary section.

A modern reader of Callimachus must engage in a double detective work because, on the one hand, Callimachus's works survive only in fragments and, on the other hand, the style of the poet was highly allusive. Together with the previous 1996 volume, *Aitia: libro terzo e quarto* provides us with a reliable guide to Callimachus's finest work.

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