

***FESSAE DATE SERTA CARINAE (REM., 813) – THE IMAGE OF  
THE SHIP IN OVID’S POEMS***

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*Abstract: Taking into consideration the terms used for “navis” the paper examines the lexical and stylistic occurrences of the recurrent image of the ship in Ovid’s poems and the evolution of their meaning from the first poems to the works of his exile. From its initial function, related to real the world, in the sea journey, the image of the ship becomes a symbol of love and poetic creation: as a symbol of love, it appears as the ship drifting in the wind or the ship with lovers cured from the pains of unrequited love that arrives safely in the harbour, as an image of poetic creation, it signifies the abandoning of the erotic theme, the end of the poetic work, etc. Thus, the symbol of the ship becomes gradually identified with Ovid’s own life, the values of the topos being in this way enriched by references to Ovid’s own destiny of a poet in exile and by the parallel development of the related theme of the shipwreck.*