

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910796662803321
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Titolo	Allusion and allegory : studies in the Ciris / / Boris Kayachev
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, [Germany] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	3-11-044712-6 3-11-044776-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (248 p.)
Collana	Beitrage zur Altertumskunde, , 1616-0452 ; ; Band 346
Classificazione	FX 178705
Disciplina	871.01
Soggetti	Allusions in literature Mythology, Classical, in literature Narrative poetry, Latin - History and criticism LITERARY CRITICISM / Ancient & Classical Rome In literature Rome (Empire)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgements -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. The proem (lines 1100) -- 2. Beginning from the beginning (lines 101205) -- 3. The night episode (lines 206348) -- 4. Heroic deeds (lines 349385) -- 5. An epic voyage (lines 386477) -- 6. The metamorphosis (lines 478541) -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index of passages cited
Sommario/riassunto	The Ciris has received a certain amount of scholarly attention during the twentieth century, but on the whole has failed to meet with an adequate appreciation. This book aims to vindicate the Ciris, mainly by exploring its use of pre-Virgilian poetic texts largely ignored in previous scholarship. The core of the book consists of a discursive literary commentary, divided into chapters that examine consecutively the poem's main narrative units. Viewing allusion and allegory as intrinsic features of poetic composition rather than mere artistic devices, the book explores, among more prominent intertexts, Apollonius' Argonautica and Callimachus' Hecale, Lucretius and

Catullus 64. Allusions are also suggested to Homer and Empedocles, Theocritus, Moschus, and Bion, Nicander and Euphorion, Choerilus of Samos and Asius of Samos, Ennius and Cicero. Through its intricate web of references to poetic intertexts, the *Ciris*, it is argued, creates an implicit allegorical pattern with an original poetological message. Allusion and Allegory is thus the first book-length study to offer a coherent literary interpretation of this controversial poem.
