

72. FAMILIARITY: TO LESBIA



nce you said you preferred Catullus alone,
Lesbia [p. 218]: would not have *Jupiter* [p. 216] before me.
I prized you then not like an ordinary lover,
but as a father prizes his children, his family.
Now I know you: so, though I burn more fiercely,
yet you're worth much less to me, and slighter.
How is that, you ask? The pain of such love
makes a lover love more, but like less.



'Hebe with Jupiter in the Guise of an Eagle'
Gustav-Adolphe Diez (Belgian, 1820 - 1826)
The Rijksmuseum