Libellus Defensorius – Ovid’s Strategy of Self-Defence in Tristia, 2

The second book of Tristia consists of a single elegy – a very long one (578 lines), imagined by Ovid as a real self-defense discourse, and as an answer to the relegatio pain produced by Augustus’ accusation on him. The poet takes a chance on the right of sending a defensive plea (libellus defensorius) to the emperor. In this article we try to assume that this elegy is built not only by respecting the exigencies of a discourse but mainly those of a juridical discourse. This way, Ovid tries to wake up Augustus with the help of a lawyer’s and of a poet’s means.