This paper explores the first traceable moments in the ancient reception history of Cato’s Origines. We will focus initially on Cicero as the earliest reader of the Origines on record, then consider where the work surfaces in Cicero’s immediate wake, in Sallust but more especially in the various strands of ancient scholarship active in the Augustan era. Along the way, we will reflect on how these still accessible moments in the Origines’ ancient transmission might help explain the nature of the work’s record reaching us today.