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### Poetry as window and mirror : Hellenistic poets on predecessors, contemporaries and themselves

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## APPENDIX : LIST OF HELLENISTIC EPIGRAMS ON POETS

### Corpus

The corpus consists of early Hellenistic epigrams dealing with poets, i.e. epigrams produced in the third Century BCE. I have chosen to exclude later Hellenistic authors such as Antipater Sidonius and Thessalonicensis as well as Meleager, because they produced their poetry in a different setting. Problematic are the epigrams attributed to Plato on Aristophanes (14 Diehl), Sappho (AP 9.506) and Pindar (AP 7.35). I follow Gow and Page (1965) in excluding the first two from the Hellenistic age, and attributing the last to Leonidas (20).

### Poets of the Past

(Poems marked with an asterisk are discussed in the text.)

#### Orpheus

AP 7.9 Damagetus\*

AP 7.10 Anonymous

#### Arion

AB 37 Posidippus\*

#### Homer

AP 7.2 Anonymous

AP 9.2 Leonidas

AP 7.1 Alcaeus of Messene

AP 7.5 Alcaeus of Messene

AP 7.80 Callimachus (Homer and Creophylus)\*

#### Hesiod

AP 7.55 Alcaeus of Messene

AP 7.54 Mnasalces

#### Pisander

AP 9.598 Theocritus

#### Antimachus

AP 9.63 Asclepiades\*

#### Mimnermus, Antimachus, Hesiod, Homer

AP 12.168 Posidippus

#### On the nine lyric poets

AP 9.184 Anonymous

AP 9.571 Anonymous

#### Archilochus

AP 9.185 Anonymous

AP 7.664 Theocritus\*

AP 7.351 Dioscorides\*

**Hipponax**

*AP* 7.408 Leonidas\*  
*AP* 7.536 Alcaeus of Messene  
*AP* 13.3 Theocritus\*

**Alcman**

*AP* 7.709 Alexander Aetolus

**Sappho**

*AP* 9.189 Anonymous  
*Ath.* 13.696 Posidippus\*  
*AP* 7.407 Dioscorides

**Pindar**

*AP* 7.35 Leonidas

**Anacreon**

*AP* 7.28 Anonymous  
*AP* 7.24 Pseudo-Simonides  
*AP* 7.25 Pseudo-Simonides  
*AP* 7.31 Dioscorides  
*APL* 306 Leonidas\*  
*APL* 307 Leonidas\*  
*AP* 9.599 Theocritus\*

**Erinna**

*AP* 9.190 Anonymous  
*AP* 7.12 Anonymous\*  
*AP* 7.11 Asclepiades  
*AP* 7.13 Leonidas

**Philitas**

AB 63 Posidippus

**Thespis**

*AP* 7.410 Dioscorides

**Aeschylus**

*AP* 7.411 Dioscorides

**Sophocles**

*AP* 7.37 Dioscorides  
*AP* 7.21 Simmias\*  
*AP* 7.22 Simmias

**Euripides**

*AP* 7.46 Anonymous

**Tellen**

*AP* 7.719 Leonidas

**Epicharmus**

*AP* 9.600 Theocritus  
*AP* 7.125 Anonymous

**Cratinus**

*AP* 13.29 Nicaenetus of Samos

**Heracleitus**

*AP* 7.479 Theodoridas of Samos

## Poets of the Present (Including Self-epitaphs)

### Aratus

*AP* 9.507 Callimachus\*

*AP* 9.25 Leonidas\*

*SH* 712 = *Vit. Arat.* 1 (King Ptolemy "Physkon")

### Asclepiades

*AP* 12.50 Asclepiades\*

### Callimachus

*AP* 7.415 Callimachus\*

*AP* 7.525 Callimachus\*

*AP* 9.566 Callimachus\*

*AP* 11.362 Callimachus\*

*AP* 12.43 Callimachus\*

*AP* 11.275 "Apollonius"\*

### Euphorion

*AP* 11.218 Crates\*

*AP* 7.406 Theodoridas\*

### Hedylus

Ath. 11.473a, GP V Hedylus\*

### Heracleitus

*AP* 7.80 Callimachus\*

### Leonidas

*AP* 7.715 Leonidas\*

*AP* 6.300 Leonidas\*

*AP* 6.302 Leonidas\*

### Machon

*AP* 7.708 Dioscorides

### Mnasalces

*AP* 13.21 Theodoridas of Samos\*

### Nossis

*AP* 5.170 Nossis\*

*AP* 7.718 Nossis\*

### Posidippus

*SH* 705 = AB 118\*

### Rhinton

*AP* 7.414 Nossis

### Sositheus

*AP* 7.707 Dioscorides

### Theaetetus

(*AP* 9.565) Callimachus\*

## Singing versus Writing in the Epigrams

### A. Poets of the Past.

In these epigrams, the profession of the poet is expressed with the following words: ποιητής (AP 7.2, 7.5 Homer; 7.664 Archilochus); αοιδός (AP 7.10 Orpheus; 7.1, 7.80 Homer; 7.13 Erinna; 13.29 Cratinus). Apart from these designations, there is a range of words forming a continuum between the two: εὐφώνων Πιερίδων πρόπολος (AP 7.35 Pindar); μουσοποιός (AP 9.598 Pisander; 13.3 Hipponax); ὕμνητήρ (AP 7.19 Alcman); ὕμνοπόλος (AP 9.24 Homer; 7.25 Anacreon; 7.13 Erinna); ωἰδοποιός (AP 9.599 Anacreon).

The expressions for the process/activity itself and its final product also range between these terms. Singing/reciting is expressed by (compounds of) the verbs: αἰεῖω (AP 7.664 Archilochus; 9.63 Antimachus; 7.5 Homer); κλάγγω (AP 9.571 Pindar); μελίζεσθαι (APl. 307 Anacreon); μέλπεσθαι (AP 7.21 Sophocles; APl. 306 Anacreon; AP 7.19 Alcman); πνεῖω (AP 7.55 Hesiod; 7.24, 7.25 Anacreon; 7.407 Sappho; 9.571 Simonides); or the nouns αοιδή (AP 7.410 Thespis; Ath. 13.696 Sappho); αὐδὰ (AP 9.571 Alcaeus; μέλη (AP 7.25 Anacreon); μολπή (AP 7.25 Anacreon); ὕμνος (AP 9.189 Sappho); στόμα (AP 7.411 Aeschylus; 9.571 Simonides; 9.184 Pindar); φθέγγω (Ath. 13.696 Sappho; AP 9.571 Bacchylides); φθόγγος (AP 9.571 Simonides).

References to the lyre and hence to singing can be found in (APl. 306, 307, AP 7.24, 7.25 Anacreon; 9.189 Sappho; 7.664 Archilochus; 7.10 Orpheus; AB 37 Arion).

It is further noteworthy that Sappho's poems are called her "daughters" (AP 7.407); Erinna too is pictured as "giving birth" to her poetry (AP 7.12). Cratinus (AP 13.29) also uses the verb τέκω to describe the production of poetry.

Writing and its products are expressed by: γράμμα (AP 7.80 Homer; 9.63 Antimachus; 9.184 Anacreon; 7.411 Aeschylus); σέλις (AP 9.184 Simonides; Ath. 13.696 Sappho; AP 7.21 Sophocles); συγγράφω (AP 9.598 Pisander).

This leaves verbs and nouns that could both denote writing or the spoken word: ἔπη (AP 7.12 Erinna; 7.2, 7.5 Homer; referring to hexametric poetry); διδασκαλία (AP 7.37 Sophocles); κυδαίνω (AP 7.1 Homer); ῥήματα (AP 9.600 Epicharmus; AP 7.408 Hipponax).

There is also a number of references to (specific) meters or genres (iambi, elegiac distich, melic and epic meter, *stichoi*, comedy etc.) and to the "300 verses of Erinna, which

conquer Homer's poetry" (AP 9.190). In general, lyric poets tend to be associated with song, epic poets and dramatists with writing and singing/reciting.

### *B. Poets of the Present*

In these epigrams a similar alternation between ποιέω, αείδω, γράφω and more opaque metaphors for the poetic process is found: ποιέω (AP 11.218; AP 7.406, Euphorion); ποίημα (AP 12.43, Callimachus AP 11.218 Euphorion); ποιητής (AP 9.566 Callimachus).

Singing/reciting is expressed by the following words and metaphors: αείδω and compound verbs (AB 118 Posidippus; AP 7.525 Callimachus); ἀήδονις (AP 7.414 Rhinthon); ἀήδων (AP 7.80 Heraclitus, referring to his works; AB 118 Archilochus, referring to the man); αοιδή/ἄεισμα (AP 9.507, Hesiod/Aratus AP 7.415, Callimachus); αοιδός (AP 9.507 Hesiod); κύκνος (AP 5.135 Zeno); τέττιξ (AP 12.98 Posidippus).

The following expressions seem to indicate improvisation: καίρια συγγελάσαι AP 7.415 (apparently used in opposition to αοιδή); παίζω (Ath 11.473a GPV Hedylus).

Writing is expressed by the words βίβλος (AB 118 Posidippus); γράμμα (AP 9.20 Aratus, note that in AP 9.507 the same work is referred to by ἄεισμα); γράφω (AP 11.275 Callimachus; AB 118 Posidippus); δέλτον/σέλις (AB 118 Posidippus); ἐν βύβλοις πεπονημένη ... ψύχη (AP 12.98 Posidippus); κωμωδογράφος (AP 7.708 Machon).

This leaves words that would seem to indicate speaking rather than writing: ἔπος (AP 9.507 Aratus/Hesiod Ath. 11.473a GPV Hedylus); ὀρθοεπής (AB 118 Posidippus); ῥήσιες (AP 9.507 Aratus).

In some epigrams metaphors for poetry are used that leave unexpressed whether written words are imagined or songs; the humble gifts Leonidas offers to the goddess Lathria in AP 6.300 are usually understood metapoetically; since they suggest material objects, written poems might be intended. A similar claim could be made about AP 6.302, where Leonidas refers to his household stores, which mice try to raid. The "roses" of Nossis (AP 5.170) are more ambiguous, as is her expression for receiving inspiration in AP 7.718 (τᾶν Σαπφοῦς χαρίτων ἄνθος ἐναυσόμενος). A similar metaphor is found in AP 7.708 (Dioscorides on Machon) ἐν Μούσαις δριμὺ πέφυκε θύμον, referring to the wit of Attic comedy, transferred by Machon from Attica to Alexandria.

Sometimes (expressions containing) Μοῦσα indicate either the poetic talent/inspiration of a given author (*AP* 5.134 Cleanthes), or his works (*AP* 7.715 Leonidas), or a genre (*AP* 7.707 Sositheus).