



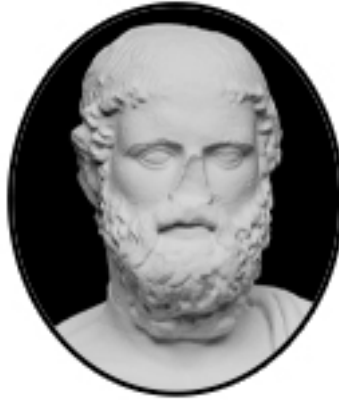
Antipater of Sidon  
The Fragments

DELPHI  CLASSICS

Ancient Classics Series

*The Fragments of*  
**ANTIPATER OF SIDON**

(fl. 2nd century BC)



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Version 1

*The Fragments of*  
**ANTIPATER OF SIDON**



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## *The Fragments of Antipater of Sidon*



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## The Translation



*Sidon, the third-largest city in Lebanon, located on the Mediterranean coast in the South Governorate  
— Antipater's birthplace*



*Ancient ruins at Sidon*

## The Fragments of Antipater of Sidon



*Translated by W. R. Paton, 1918*

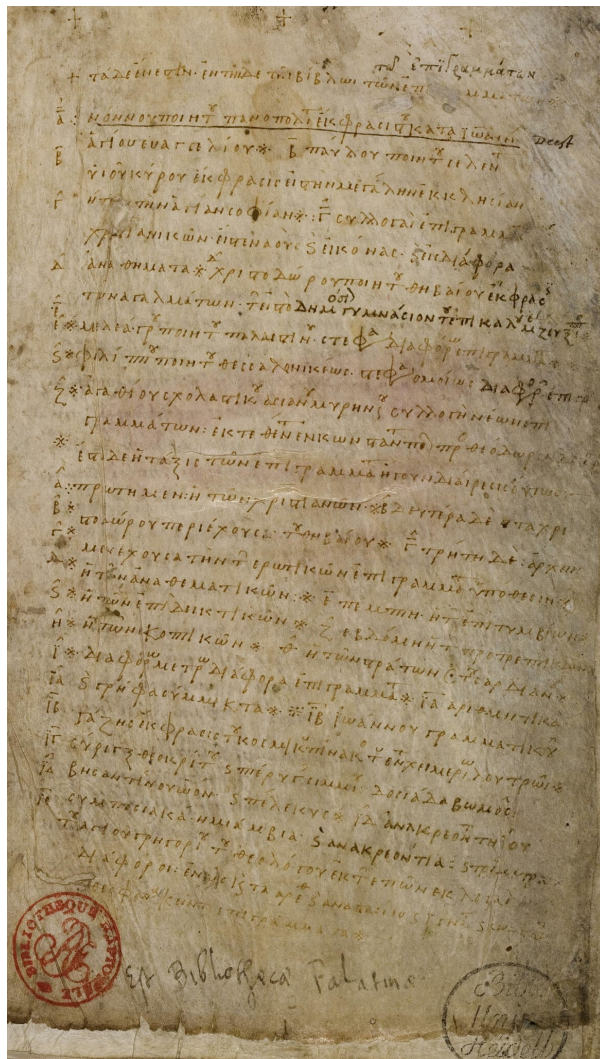
Antipater of Sidon was an ancient Greek poet of the late second and early first century BC, who mainly composed funerary or ephrastic epigrams, which have been preserved in the *Greek Anthology* — a collection of poems that span the Classical and Byzantine periods of Greek literature. We know very little about the life and lost poetry of Antipater, save for what has been recorded in the quotations of a few other ancient authors. One of the fragments commemorates the Sack of Corinth, which took place in 146 BC, while an inscriptional epigram on Delos may be dated to as late as 105 BC. Cicero mentions Antipater as living in Rome during the time of Quintus Lutatius Catulus (149-87 BC), a consul of the Republic in 102 BC, and describes the poet as a “brilliant epigrammist, sometimes too fond of imitation.”

Antipater’s extant verses, numbering just over 70, are chiefly epitaphs and ephrastic poems (literary descriptions or commentaries on a visual work of art, such as a painting or sculpture). Of chief interest is the poem that provides one of the earliest known lists of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World:

“I have set eyes on the wall of lofty Babylon on which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the hanging gardens, and the Colossus of the Sun, and the huge labour of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus; but when I saw the house of Artemis that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, “Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught so grand.”

The Seven Wonders of the World is the name conferred on a select group of ancient works of art that had obtained pre-eminence among the sightseers of the Alexandrian era. Antipater’s list was probably compiled from the numerous guide books then current in the Greek world. His poem went on to inspire many other ancient authors to copy and produce their own lists of wonders. A second and slightly divergent list from the hand of a Byzantine rhetorician has been incorporated in the works of Philo of Byzantium. The monuments are usually as follows: (1) the pyramids of Egypt, (2) the Hanging Gardens of Semiramis at Babylon, (3) the statue of Zeus at Olympia by Pheidias, (4) the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, (5) the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, (6) the Colossus at Rhodes, (7) the Pharos (lighthouse) of Alexandria. Some omit one of these wonders and include instead the Walls of Babylon.

A shadowy figure in the history of classical Greek poetry, Antipater lived at the intersection of three worlds: Phoenician Sidon, the Hellenistic east and the invading Romans. His surviving epigrams reveal a desire to cultivate the Greek culture of the past, while responding to the reality of the empire-building Romans, who were both conquerors and patrons. His writing style favours long sentences with many adjectives and compounds, employing a rare creativity in composing sophisticated variations on other poets’ short epigrams. Through his use of variation and evocation of famous poets, Antipater was an important interpreter of earlier Greek texts and ways of life. The fragments help us to understand the transition of culture from the classical Greek era to the ascendant period of Roman domination.



The beginning of the 'Anthologia Palatina', main part of 'The Greek Anthology', Gesellschaft der Freunde Universität Heidelberg

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*'The Last Day of Corinth' by Tony Robert-Fleury, 1870 — the Sack of Corinth in 146 BC is referenced by Antipater in one of his poems. It was a decisive engagement fought between the Roman Republic and the Greek city-state of Corinth and its allies in the Achaean League. The battle marked the end of the Achaean War and the beginning of the period of Roman domination in Greek history.*



*The Octo Mundi Miracula's imagined depictions of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, which established the modern canonical list of seven*

## FRAGMENT 1



[6.14] (G. P. 1)

The three brothers dedicated to Pan these implements of their craft : Damis his net for trapping the beasts of the mountain, Clitor this net for fish, and Pigres this untearable net that fetters birds' necks. For they never returned home with empty nets, the one from the copses, the second from the air, the third from the sea.

## FRAGMENT 2



[6.15]

*By Antipater or Zosimus*

The blessed triad of brothers dedicated these nets to Pan : Clitor his fishing nets, Damis his hunting nets, Pigres his fowling nets. But may you grant them sport in air, sea, and land.

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*End of Sample*