

Cambridge University Press

0521604419 - Posidonius: The Translation of the Fragments, Volume III - I. G. Kidd
Frontmatter[More information](#)**Posidonius**

Volume III: The Translation of the Fragments

Posidonius was a major intellectual figure of the Hellenistic world whose interests and contribution spread over the whole intellectual field: philosophy, history, the sciences. His writings are of interest not only to philosophers and classicists, but also to historians and historians of science. His work survives only in fragments. The text of these fragments, collected and edited by L. Edelstein and I. G. Kidd, was published in 1972 (Vol. I *The Fragments*), with a second edition in 1989. This collection, along with Vol. II *The Commentary* by I. G. Kidd (1988), has become established as the definitive modern edition. However, many of the fragments are extremely difficult to translate, and this volume of translations has been compiled to make this interesting material more easily accessible to scholars and students. The translations, which follow the order and layout of the fragments as presented in Volume I, are accompanied by contextual introductions and explanatory notes where necessary. An Introduction summarises the importance of Posidonius and his work.

I. G. Kidd is Emeritus Professor of Greek in the University of St Andrews.

Cambridge University Press

0521604419 - Posidonius: The Translation of the Fragments, Volume III - I. G. Kidd
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL TEXTS AND
COMMENTARIES

EDITORS

J. DIGGLE N. HOPKINSON J. G. F. POWELL
M. D. REEVE D. N. SEDLEY R. J. TARRANT

36

POSIDONIUS

VOLUME III

THE TRANSLATION OF
THE FRAGMENTS

POSIDONIUS
III. THE TRANSLATION
OF THE FRAGMENTS

I. G. KIDD



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

0521604419 - Posidonius: The Translation of the Fragments, Volume III - I. G. Kidd
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 1999

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1999
First paperback edition 2004

Typeset in Baskerville 11/13 [A O]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 77-145609

ISBN 0 521 62258 1 hardback
ISBN 0 521 60441 9 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

Cambridge University Press

0521604419 - Posidonius: The Translation of the Fragments, Volume III - I. G. Kidd

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Anthony, Robin and Simon

CONTENTS

Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
--------------	---------------

PART I: TESTIMONIA

Life and influence

T1–13	Identification, citizenship, dating, education	31
14–26	Travels	35
27–8	Offices	38
29–45	Friends, pupils, School	38
46–72	Influence and reputation	43

Characteristics of Posidonius' philosophy

T73–4	Science and astronomy	53
75–9	Geography	53
80	History	56
81–2	Ethics	56
83–9	General characteristics and methods	58
90–102	Relation to other philosophers	61
103–7	Style	65

Testimonia doubtfully or mistakenly ascribed to Posidonius

T108–15	67
---------	----

PART II: FRAGMENTS AND TITLES
OF NAMED BOOKS

List of surviving book titles	72
F1–3 <i>Exhortations</i>	73

CONTENTS

Physics

F4–12	<i>Natural Philosophy</i> (Bks I, II, V, VI, VIII)	73
13	<i>On the Cosmos</i> (Bk I)	77
14–15	<i>Meteorology</i> (<i>Elementary Treatise</i>)	77
16–17	<i>Meteorological Phenomena</i> (Bks v, VII)	78
18	<i>Meteorology</i>	79
19	<i>On the Size of the Sun</i>	81
20–3	<i>On Gods</i> (Bks I, III(?), v)	81
24	<i>On Heroes and Daemons</i>	83
25	<i>On Fate</i> (Bk II)	84
26–7	<i>On Divination</i> (Bk v)	84
28	<i>On Soul</i> (Bk III)	85

Ethics

F29	<i>Ethics</i>	85
30–5	<i>On Emotions</i> (Bk I . . .)	86
36	<i>On Anger</i> (Bk I)	93
37	<i>On Relieving Grief</i>	94
38	<i>On the Virtues</i> (?)	94
39–41	<i>On Appropriate Action</i> (Bk I . . .)	95

Logic

F42	<i>On Criterion</i>	97
43	<i>On General Enquiry against Hermagoras</i>	98
44	<i>Introduction to Style</i>	98
45	<i>On Conjunctions</i>	99

Sciences and history

F46–7	<i>Against Zeno of Sidon</i> (?)	100
48	<i>On the Comparison of Aratus and Homer on Mathematics</i>	106
49	<i>On Ocean</i>	108

CONTENTS

50	<i>Circumnavigation or Geographical Tours</i>	124
51–78	<i>History</i> (Bks II, III, IV, V, VII, VIII, XI, XIV, XVI, XXII, XXIII, XXVII, XXVIII, XXX, XXXIV, XXXVI, XLVII, XLIX)	124
79	<i>Investigation or Monograph on Pompey</i> (?)	140
80–1	<i>Handbook on Tactics</i>	141

Letters

F82–3		141
-------	--	-----

Fragments doubtfully or mistakenly ascribed to Posidonius

F84	<i>On Void</i>	142
85	<i>Commentary on Plato's Timaeus</i>	142
86a	<i>Discourse with Tubero</i>	142
86b	<i>On Augury</i>	143
86c	<i>Commentary on Plato's Phaedrus</i>	143
86d	<i>Commentary on Plato's Parmenides</i>	143
86e	<i>Historical Monograph on Marcellus</i>	143

PART III: FRAGMENTS NOT ASSIGNED TO BOOKS

Divisions and content of philosophy

F87–8	Divisions of philosophy	147
89	Subdivisions of ethics	148
90	Liberal arts; philosophy and science	149
91	Order of teaching	151

Physics

F92–149	Principles, 151; Substance and matter, 151; Elements: natural places and relationship, 152; Air and cause of cold, 154; Cause: definition of cause, 155; Generation and destruction, 156;
---------	---

CONTENTS

Space, 157; Time, 157; Cosmos, 158; Pseudo-fragment, 159; Pneuma; God, 159; Zeus, Nature, Fate, Fortune, 160; Divination and astrology, 163; Sun, 171; Moon, 178; Definition of star, 182; Milky Way, 182; Comets, 184; Halo, 188; Rainbow, 190; Thunderstorms and lightning, 193; Hail, 194; Winds, 195; Moon, winds and tides, 198; Soul, 199.

Ethics

- F150–87 Dependent on understanding of soul or emotions, 204; Emotions: Posidonius' relation to other theories, 205; Definition, 205; Emotional movements, 206; Classification of affections and emotions, 206; Anger, 207; Recognised by immediate experience, 208; Proof of cause of emotions, 209; Natural goals and affinities of soul; impulse, conation, 209; Sickness of soul, cure, education, training, 212; Cause of evil, 215; Wealth, health, and the category of goods, 235; Progressors and the sage, 240; Virtue, 244; The End, 247.

Logic

- F188–94 Dialectic, 251; Rhetoric, classification of *status*, 252; Cause, 253; Relational syllogisms, 254; Grammar: etymology, 255; Sight, 256.

Sciences

- F195–9 *Mathematics*
Theorems and problems in methodology, 257; Definition of figure, 258; The fifth postulate of Euclid, and definition of parallel lines, 260; Classification of quadrilaterals, 261; Definition

CONTENTS

- of point, 262; Definition of centre of gravity, 263.
- F200–13 *Mathematical Geography*
Shape of the habitable world, 263; Measurement of circumference of earth, 265; Measurement of parasang, 267; Observation of Canopus, 268; Measurement of ‘isthmuses’, 270; Zones, 272; Climate of the torrid zone, 275; Orientation and climate of India, 278.
- F214–29 *Tides, Hydrology*
Ocean and tides, 279; Tidal ebb and flow, 280; On Homer’s Oceanus and tides, 280; Theory of tides, 281; Depth of Sea of Sardinia, 294; Cause of rise of the Nile, 295; Rivers, 296; Big wave, 299; Sea and volcanic action, 300; Stony Plain caused by water, 302.
- F230–3 *Seismology*
Classification of earthquakes, 304; Causes and types of earthquakes, 304; Effects of earthquakes, 304; Etymology of Rhagae, 305.
- F234–40 *Geology, Mineralogy*
Lava, 306; Asphalt (bitumen), 307; Naphtha wells, 307; Porous clay, 308; Salt, 308; Metals and mining in Spain, 309; Copper, 311; The corrupting effect of gold and silver, 311.
- Geography*
- F241–5 (a) *Botanical and zoological detail*
Remarkable trees in Spain, 313; Chalybonian vineyards, 314; Peculiar features in Iberian fauna, 314; Dead monster in Coele Syria, 315; Apes in Mauretania, 315.
- F246–51 (b) *Geographical details*
Founding of Gadeira, and location of The Pillars, 316; Odysseia in Baetica and its temple, 318; Toulouse, and the neck of southern Gaul

CONTENTS

between Atlantic and Mediterranean, 319; Shape, orientation, size and position of Sicily, 319; Syracuse, Eryx and Enna, 320. The Tetrapolis of Seleucis, 321.

History

- F252–84 Alexander, 321; Athenion, 323; Scipio and Panaetius, 329; Marius, 330; Brutus, 331; Marcellus, 332; Revolt of mining slaves in Attica, 336; Mithridates and the Taurian Chersonese, 337; On Roman proper names, 338; Virtues of the old Romans, 339; Life in Liguria, 340; Hyperboreans in the Italian Alps, 341; The Celtiberians, 341; Cimbri, 342; The treasure of the Tectosages, 344; Celts, 346; Rites of women at the mouth of the Loire, 347; Mysians and the *Iliad*, 348; German eating habits, 351; Jews, 352; Erembians and Aramaeans, 355; Parthians, 358; Carmani, 359; The Golden Age; the political and cultural development of man, 359.

History of philosophy

- F285–91 Sidonian Mochus inventor of atomic theory, 366; Pyrrho, 367; Epicurus, 368; Plato, 368.

Miscellaneous

- F292–3 The magadis in Anacreon, 370; On the meaning of the word *lax* in Homer, 370.

INDICES

Index of sources	373
Index of proper names	382
Subject index	395

CONTENTS

Concordance with Jacoby	407
Concordance with Theiler	409

Abbreviations for editions, sigla and critics appear in Vol. I, pp. xxxiii–lv. A bibliographical list of authors referring to Posidonius can be found in Vol. II, pp. 989–1007.