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This book – the only history of friendship in classical antiquity that exists in English – examines the nature of friendship in ancient Greece and Rome from Homer (eighth century BC) to the Christian Roman Empire of the fourth century AD. Although friendship is throughout this period conceived of as a voluntary and loving relationship (contrary to the prevailing view among scholars), there are major shifts in emphasis from the bonding among warriors in epic poetry, to the egalitarian ties characteristic of the Athenian democracy, the status-conscious connections in Rome and the Hellenistic kingdoms, and the commitment to a universal love among Christian writers. Friendship is also examined in relation to erotic love and comradeship, as well as for its role in politics and economic life, in philosophical and religious communities, in connection with patronage and the private counsellors of kings, and in respect to women; its relation to modern friendship is fully discussed.

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Friendship in the classical world

## KEY THEMES IN ANCIENT HISTORY

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# FRIENDSHIP IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD

DAVID KONSTAN

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[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521454025](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521454025)

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First published 1997

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Konstan, David.  
 Friendship in the classical world / David Konstan.  
 p. cm. – (Key themes in ancient history)  
 Includes bibliographical references and index.  
 ISBN 0 521 45402 6 (hardback). – ISBN 0 521 45998 2 (paperback)  
 1. Friendship – History. I. Title. II. Series.  
 BF575.F66K66 1996  
 302.3'4'0938 – dc20 96-22245 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-45402-5 hardback  
 ISBN-10 0-521-45402-6 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-45998-3 paperback  
 ISBN-10 0-521-45998-2 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2005

Cambridge University Press  
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*For Pura*

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## *Acknowledgements*

I began devoting my research entirely to the history of classical friendship in the summer of 1991. I have been most fortunate in the support I have received for this project, and am eager to express my gratitude. A sabbatical semester, generously granted by Brown University in the autumn term of 1991, permitted uninterrupted study. I spent part of this period as a fellow at King's College, Cambridge, which gave me access not only to the splendid University Library, but also to conversation with stimulating colleagues who endured some of my early reflections on the present theme. A month at the Rockefeller Foundation's Center in Bellagio, Italy, late in 1991 enabled me to write up materials in an idyllic ambience, and I offer sincere thanks to the Foundation. I spent another month as a visitor at the American Academy in Rome, and wish to thank the entire staff of the Academy for their hospitality.

In August of 1993, I was visiting professor in the Classics Department at the University of Natal in Durban, where I gave a series of seminars on friendship. I thank my colleagues there for their unflinching warmth and spirited dialogue. In the academic year 1994–5, I was free to work exclusively on the book at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, thanks to a grant from the Center and from the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. I am deeply grateful to both institutions, and to the staff and fellows at the Center for their constant encouragement.

I have also enjoyed support both personally and intellectually from colleagues, friends and family. I have been lucky in the devotion of my friends, whose example has made the subject of this book especially congenial to me. It is not possible to list all those who have contributed to this project by their love; I trust they will be content with an anonymous expression of my appreciation. I must mention, however, five friends who provided specific commentary and

thoughtful conversation at critical stages of the work: Mary Barnard, Jonathan Haynes, Phillip Mitsis, Elisa Romano, and, as always, Khachig Tölölyan. I wish also to acknowledge the special encouragement of Paul Cartledge, who first introduced me to the series in which this book appears and gave advice with his customary care and magnanimity. I am likewise grateful to Peter Garnsey as co-editor of the series, and to Pauline Hire of Cambridge University Press.

I am privileged to have been invited to speak on ancient friendship at several universities and professional congresses, and I take this opportunity to thank collectively the many colleagues who offered suggestions and criticisms on these occasions. To my colleagues at Brown University, special thanks.

My daughter, Eve (called Tupi) Mothner, her husband John, and my son, Geoff, have been, as ever, a source of gladness and comfort. I thank my brothers, Larry and Michael, for their love and all that they have meant to me. During two summers and part of a winter I worked on this book in the bright air of Salamanca, in the home of my mother-in-law, Catalina Hernández Hernández, who provided the perfect conditions in which to think and study; to her, I express my deepest gratitude.

Finally, I dedicate this book to my wife, María de la Purificación Nieto Hernández, in thanks for her love, for the wisdom and learning with which she commented on every aspect of this book, and for the joy of her companionship.

## *Abbreviations*

<i>AJAH</i>	<i>American Journal of Ancient History</i>
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt</i> , ed. W. Haase and H. Temporini. Berlin (1972–)
<i>AP</i>	<i>Ancient Philosophy</i>
<i>CAG</i>	<i>Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca</i> , ed. H. Diels. Berlin
<i>CB</i>	<i>Classical Bulletin</i>
<i>CJ</i>	<i>Classical Journal</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>Cron. Erc.</i>	<i>Cronache Ercolanesi</i>
<i>D-K</i>	<i>Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> , ed. H. Diels and W. Kranz. 6th edn. Berlin (1951–2)
<i>EE</i>	<i>Eudemian Ethics</i>
<i>EN</i>	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
<i>Ep.</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek Roman and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>ICS</i>	<i>Illinois Classical Studies</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>K-A</i>	<i>Poetae Comici Graeci</i> , ed. R. Kassel and C. Austin. Berlin (1983–)
<i>LCM</i>	<i>Liverpool Classical Monthly</i>
<i>LSJ</i>	<i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , ed. H. G. Liddell and R. Scott; 9th edn. revised by H. S. Jones. Oxford (1940)
<i>MM</i>	<i>Magna Moralia</i>
<i>Or.</i>	<i>Oration</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus, series Graeca</i> , ed. J.-P. Migne. Paris (1857–66)

PL	Patrologiae cursus completus, series Latina, ed. J.-P. Migne. Paris (1841–55)
QUCC	<i>Quaderni Urbinati di Cultura Classica</i>
RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i> , ed. E. Dassmann <i>et al.</i> Stuttgart (1941–)
SO	<i>Symbolae Osloenses</i>
SVF	<i>Stoicorum veterum fragmenta</i> , ed. H. Von Arnim. Leipzig (1903–24)
TAPA	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>