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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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*For Pura*

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## *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)

*List of abbreviations*

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>