

AUTHORITY AND AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS IN THE PLATONIST TRADITION

All disciplines can count on a noble founder, and the representation of this founder as an authority is key in order to construe a discipline's identity. This book sheds light on how Plato and other authorities were represented in one of the most long-lasting traditions of all time. It leads the reader through exegesis and polemics, recovery of the past and construction of a philosophical identity. From Xenocrates to Proclus, from the sceptical shift to the re-establishment of dogmatism, from the Mosaic of the Philosophers to the Neoplatonist Commentaries, the construction of authority emerges as a way of access to the core of the Platonist tradition.

MICHAEL ERLER is Professor Ordinarius of Classical Philology at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. He is the author of several books and articles on Plato, Platonism, Epicurus and the Epicurean tradition, drama, and Hellenistic and Imperial literature.

JAN ERIK HEßLER is a Lecturer in the Department of Classics at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. He has published an edition of Epicurus' Letter to Menoecus (2014), and co-edited *Argument und literarische Form in antiker Philosophie* (2013), as well as publishing numerous articles on the Platonic and Epicurean tradition.

FEDERICO M. PETRUCCI is Professor of Ancient Philosophy in Turin. His main research areas are Plato and the Platonist tradition, and his publications include the first English translation of the texts of the Platonist Taurus, in *Taurus of Beirut: The Other Side of Middle Platonism* (2018).

AUTHORITY AND
AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS
IN THE PLATONIST
TRADITION

EDITED BY

MICHAEL ERLER

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany

JAN ERIK HEßLER

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany

FEDERICO M. PETRUCCI

Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy

WITH THE COLLABORATION OF

MICHAEL McOSKER

Ohio Wesleyan University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-84400-0 — Authority and Authoritative Texts in the Platonist Tradition
Edited by Michael Erler, Jan Erik Heßler, Federico M. Petrucci
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906
Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108844000
DOI: 10.1017/9781108921596

© Cambridge University Press 2021

This publication 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 2021

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

ISBN 978-1-108-84400-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	
<i>Michael Erler, Jan Erik Heßler and Federico M. Petrucci</i>	
1 Xenocrates' Invention of Platonism	12
<i>David Sedley</i>	
2 An Iconography of Xenocrates' Platonism	38
<i>David Sedley</i>	
3 Arcesilaus' Appeal to Heraclitus as a Philosophical Authority for His Sceptical Stance	64
<i>Anna Maria Ioppolo</i>	
4 Authority beyond Doctrines in the First Century BC: Antiochus' Model for Plato's Authority	89
<i>Federico M. Petrucci</i>	
5 Authority and Doctrine in the Pseudo-Pythagorean Writings	115
<i>Bruno Centrone</i>	
6 Constructing Authority: A Re-examination of Some Controversial Issues in the Theology of Numenius	130
<i>Alexandra Michalewski</i>	
7 Plutarch's <i>E at Delphi</i> : The Hypothesis of Platonic Authority	149
<i>George Boys-Stones</i>	

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
8	Aristotle's <i>Physics</i> as an Authoritative Work in Early Neoplatonism: Plotinus and Porphyry <i>Riccardo Chiaradonna</i>	163
9	Conflicting Authorities? Hermias and Simplicius on the Self-Moving Soul <i>Saskia Aerts</i>	178
10	<i>Kathēgemōn</i> : The Importance of the Personal Teacher in Proclus and Later Neoplatonism <i>Christian Tornau</i>	201
11	'In Plato we can see the bad characters being changed by the good and instructed and purified.' Attitudes to Platonic Dialogue in Later Neoplatonism <i>Anne Sheppard</i>	227
	<i>References</i>	245
	<i>Index Locorum</i>	264
	<i>General Index</i>	279

Figures

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1.1 Gaiser's reconstruction of the celestial sphere, adjusted for perspective. From K. Gaiser (1980), <i>Das Philosophenmosaik in Neapel. Eine Darstellung der platonischen Akademie</i> , Abhandlungen der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, Phil.-hist. Klasse, Heidelberg. Reproduced courtesy of Winter Verlag. | <i>page</i> 35 |
| 2.1 <i>The Mosaic of the Philosophers</i> . Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli 124545. Photo by Giorgio Albana. Reproduced by permission of Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali – Museo Archeologico di Napoli. | 40 |
| 2.2 <i>From the Academy to the Lyceum</i> , drawing by Candace H. Smith. From A.A. Long & D.N. Sedley (1987), <i>The Hellenistic Philosophers, Vol. 1: Translations of the Principal Sources with Philosophical Commentary</i> , Cambridge. Reproduced, with slight modification, courtesy of Candace H. Smith. | 46 |
| 2.3 <i>The Sarsina Mosaic</i> . Rome, Villa Albani Torlonia. © Fondazione Torlonia. Reproduced with permission. | 53 |
| 2.4 <i>Aratus and Urania</i> , mosaic. Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier. Photo by Th. Zühmer. Reproduced courtesy of Die Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe Rheinland-Pfalz, Direktion Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier. | 57 |

Contributors

SASKIA AERTS is a PhD student in Ancient Philosophy at KU Leuven.

GEORGE BOYS-STONES is Professor of Classics and Philosophy at the University of Toronto.

BRUNO CENTRONE is Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Pisa.

RICCARDO CHIARADONNA is Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the Roma Tre University.

ANNA MARIA IOPPOLO is Professor Emerita of Ancient Philosophy at the Sapienza University of Rome.

ALEXANDRA MICHALEWSKI is a Research Fellow at the CNRS – Centre Léon Robin, Paris-Sorbonne.

FEDERICO M. PETRUCCI is Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Turin.

DAVID SEDLEY is Emeritus Laurence Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Cambridge.

ANNE SHEPPARD is Professor Emerita of Ancient Philosophy at Royal Holloway, University of London.

CHRISTIAN TORNAU is Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Würzburg.

Acknowledgements

This volume has its roots in a conference held at the Institut für Klassische Philologie of the University of Würzburg in February 2017 and generously funded by the Thyssen Stiftung and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Würzburg. Some of the papers given at that conference were selected as the core of the present volume, while others were added upon invitation. A twin volume, *Authority and Authoritative Texts in the Epicurean Tradition*, with the same editors and stemming from the same conference, is now in preparation. As editors, we wanted different areas of scholarship to be represented, and we especially sought to combine papers by younger researchers with ones by more experienced scholars. For his expert proofreading, we would like to warmly thank Michael McOsker. The support of the Department of Classics and Ancient History of Durham University, of the Institute of Advanced Study at Durham University, and of the Department of Philosophy and Educational Sciences of the University of Turin has been fundamental for the realisation of this volume.

This volume is dedicated to the memory of
Anna Maria Ioppolo (1943-2020)

Abbreviations

- BS Boys-Stones, G. (2018). *Platonist Philosophy 80 BC to AD 250. An Introduction and Collection of Sources in Translation*. Cambridge.
- IP Isnardi Parente, M. (1980). *Speusippo. Frammenti*. Naples.
- IP² Isnardi Parente, M. (2012). *Senocrate e Ermodoro. Testimonianze e frammenti*. 2nd ed., ed. T. Dorandi. Pisa.
- L&S Long, A.A. & Sedley, D. (1987). *The Hellenistic Philosophers*. Cambridge.

As a rule, references to ancient authors and works follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.