

Dioscorides 6.220

Chaste Atys, the gelded servant of Cybele, in frenzy giving his wild hair to the wind, wised to reach Sardis from Phrygian Pessinus; but when the dark of evening fell upon him in his course, the fierce fervor of his bitter ecstasy was cooled and he took shelter in a descending cavern, turning aside a little from the road. But a lion came swiftly on his track, a terror to brave men and to him an inexpressible woe. He stood speechless from fear and by some divine inspiration put his hand to his most courageous of beasts ran off quicker than a deer, unable to bear the deep note in its ears, and he cried out, "Great mother, by the banks of the Sanagarias I dedicate to thee, in thanks for my life, my holy *thalame*¹ and this noisy instrument that caused the lion to fly." (W. R. Paton trans.)

¹a ceremonial receptacle in which the organs of castrated priests were deposited.

Dioscorides (1), author of 40 epigrams in the Greek *[Anthology](#), from the *Garland* of *[Meleager \(2\)](#). He imitates *[Asclepiades \(2\)](#) and *[Callimachus \(3\)](#) and so is not earlier than the late 3rd cent. BC. He wrote a number of epigrams on earlier poets, especially dramatists, the latest being *[Machon](#) and *[Sositheus](#); also some elegant and sensuous erotic poems.

Greek Anthology, a collection of short epigrammatic poems representing Greek literature from the 7th cent. B.C. to the 10th cent. A.D. It contains more than 6,000 poems on a variety of subjects by some 320 authors. Meleager compiled a collection of epigrams (which he called the *Garland*) probably between 100 B.C. and 80 B.C. Later others made additions or new collections. Early in the 10th cent. Constantius Cephalas made a compilation that became the basis of the *Palatine Anthology*, so called because the sole manuscript was found in the library of the count Palatine in Heidelberg. In the first half of the 14th cent. a monk, Maximus Planudes, rearranged this collection, making additions and excluding many poems from the older compilation. The Planudes version was used until the *Palatine Anthology* was rediscovered in 1606.