

# Examples of Hellenistic Literary Dedicatory Epigrams

## Example of Type 1: Dedications given upon retirement

Antipater of Sidon, *Palatine Anthology* vi.14:

“Three brothers dedicated to Pan these tools of their craft; Damis his net for catching wild creatures of the mountain, Kleitor this net for fish, and Pigres this unbreakable neck-fettering net for birds. For the one from woodland, the other from the air, the third from the sea – none was ever received home with empty nets.”

## Examples of Type 2: Dedications given in request for greater success

Leonidas of Tarentum, *Palatine Anthology* vi.13:

“The three brothers dedicated these nets to you, Pan the hunter, each from a different type of hunting: from birds Pigres this here, this Damis from animals, Kleitor the third from sea-creatures. In return for which, send the one easily caught game through thickets, and the third through the sea round the coasts.”

Agis, *Palatine Anthology* vi.152:

“Meidon hung up in dedication to you, Phoebus, his stakes and winged hare-killing sticks here, together with his fowling rods – a small gift from small profits. But if you should give him greater, then he will return you man times more than these.”

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**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.