

POEMS OF PSELLUS IN PS.-ZONARAS

One of the more important sources for Ps.-Zonaras' *Lexicon* was the work of Michael Psellus. Ps.-Zonaras' usual practice was to cite Psellus' name explicitly in the form ὁ Ψελλός (λέγει) or τοῦ Ψελλοῦ, followed by the relevant quotation¹. When Tittmann published his edition of the *Lexicon* of Ps.-Zonaras, he often correctly identified the sources of each lemma or definition, sometimes pointing out where Psellus was being quoted without direct attribution². However, there are at least three places where lines from Psellus' poetry served as the inspiration for some of Ps.-Zonaras' more obscure entries, but escaped Tittmann's notice. They are as follows³:

α 75, 10 αἰγίλωψ· κόρης πάθος.

Tittmann provided no note on the source of this entry. It is a direct quotation of Psell. *Poem.* 6.295 ἀμαλλεῖον δεσμός μαλλῶν. αἰγίλωψ⁴ κόρης πάθος.

γ 446, 10-11 γνωσιμαχεῖν· ἐπίστασθαι τὴν πρὸς κρείττονας μάχην.

Tittmann confidently made the following claim: "spectat sine dubio ad locum Euripidis *Heraclid.* v. 706". But the real source is Psell. *Poem.* 6.310 γνωσιμαχεῖν ἐπίστασθαι τὴν πρὸς κρείττονας μάχην.

σ 1696, 4-5 σφάκελος· φλεγμονή· φθορά· νέκρωσις· κάκωσις παντοία.

No explanation of this entry was given by Tittmann, but he referred back to σ 1695, 1 σφακελισμός. In fact the lemma and definition have been modelled on Psell. *Poem.* 6.479-80 σφάκελος τὸ φλεγμαίνειν / καὶ τὴν φθορὰν καὶ νέκρωσιν καὶ κάκωσιν παντοίαν.

All three citations of Psellus come from the so-called *De grammatica*, or Σύνοψις... περὶ πασῶν ἐπιστημῶν. The second half of Psellus' poem is a collection and explanation of difficult words, somewhat in the manner of a dictionary in verse. This no doubt made it an especially attractive source of learned information for a lexicographer⁵.

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ABSTRACT: The sources of three enigmatic lemmata in Ps.-Zonaras' *Lexicon* can be identified in the poetry of Michael Psellus.

KEYWORDS: Ps.-Zonaras, Michael Psellus, Lexicography.

¹ For typical examples, see Ps.-Zonar. ι 1121, 3-4, and κ 1278, 13.

² J. A. H. Tittmann, *Iohannis Zonarae lexicon ex tribus codicibus manuscriptoris*, Leipzig 1808 (repr. Amsterdam 1967), with an index of Psellus quotations at 2.2143.

³ Psellus is cited from L. G. Westerink, *Michaelis Pselli Poemata*, Stuttgart-Leipzig 1992.

⁴ The manuscripts have αἰγίλωψ.

⁵ Cf. K. Alpers, *Zonarae Lexicon*, RE X A, 1972, 746-747.