

FRAGMENTARY TEXTS & DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Monica Berti

What is a **fragment**?

(*Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. fragment)

- a part broken off or otherwise detached from a whole; a broken piece; a (comparatively) small detached portion of anything
- a detached, isolated, or incomplete part; a (comparatively) small portion of anything; a part remaining or still preserved when the whole is lost or destroyed
- an extant portion of a writing or composition which as a whole is lost; also, a portion of a work left uncompleted by its author; hence, a part of any unfinished whole or uncompleted design

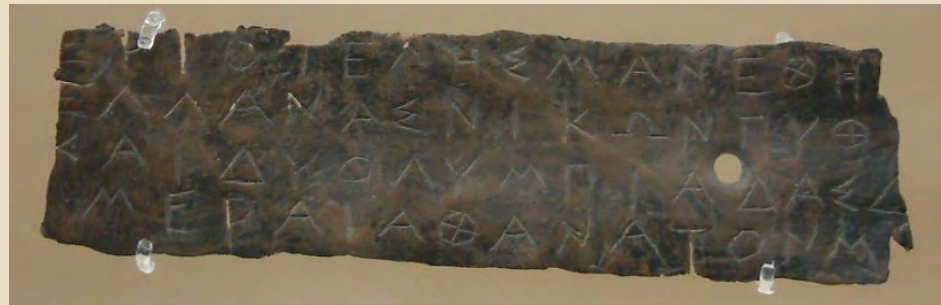
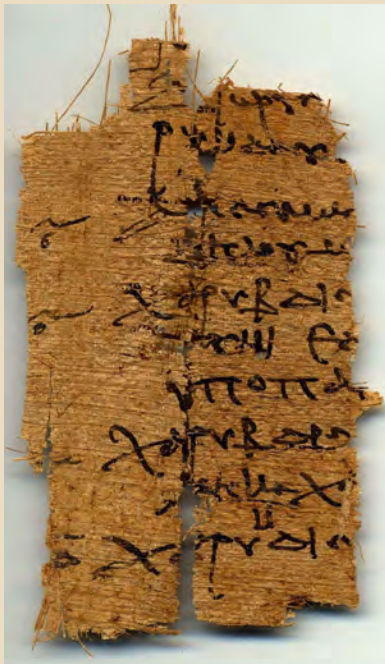
material fragments



material fragments
= physical remains of ancient evidence

reconstruction of the monument

textual fragments (1)



textual fragments

= material fragments bearing textual evidence

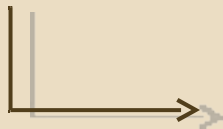
→ surviving broken off pieces of ancient writings

textual fragments (2)

Plut. Them. 2.5-6 (= Stesimbrotos of Thasos, *FGrHist Continued* 1002 F 1)

καίτοι Στησίμβροτος Ἀναξαγόρου τε διακοῦσαι τὸν Θεμιστοκλέα φησὶ καὶ περὶ Μέλισσον σπουδάσαι τὸν φυσικόν, οὐκ εὖ τῶν χρόνων ἀπτόμενος· Περικλεῖ γάρ, ὅς πολὺ νεώτερος ἦν Θεμιστοκλέους, Μέλισσος μὲν ἀντεστρατῆγαι πολιορκοῦντι Σαμίους, Ἀναξαγόρας δὲ συνδιέτριβε. μᾶλλον οὖν ἂν τις προσέχοι τοῖς Μνησιφίλου τὸν Θεμιστοκλέα τοῦ Φρεαρρίου ζηλωτὴν γενέσθαι λέγουσιν [...]

In spite of this Stesimbrotos asserts that Themistocles was a pupil of Anaxagoras and attended the lectures of Melissos the physicist. But here he is obviously mistaken in his dates, for when Pericles, who was much younger than Themistocles, was besieging Samos, Melissos was the general who opposed him, while Anaxagoras was one of Pericles' intimate friends. For this reason it is easier to believe those writers who say that Themistocles was an admirer of Mnesiphilos, a member of the same deme of Phrearrus [...] (trans. J. Engles)



textual fragments

= quotations of lost works embedded into other texts

print collections of fragmentary texts

- textual excerpts drawn from many different sources
- excerpts arranged according to various criteria (chronological order, thematic disposition)
- length of the excerpts different from one edition to another (and depending on the editor's choice)
- when printed the excerpt gives a false illusion of materiality
- duplication of the same text in multiple editions

40 1002 STESIMBROTOS OF THASOS T 1-5; F 1

1002 (= 107). Stesimbrotos of Thasos
(c. 470–425 B.C.)

T

1 1 PLOT. *Cim.* 4,5: Στησίμβροτος δ' ὁ Θάσιος περὶ τὸν αὐτὸν ἰμοῦ τι χρόνον
τῷ Κίμωνι γεγονός (cf. F 4).
2 ΛΤΠΗΝ. 13,56 p. 589d: Στησίμβροτος ὁ Θάσιος ἱστορεῖ, κατὰ τοὺς αὐτοῦς
αὐτῷ (sc. Περικλεῖ) χρόνους γινόμενος καὶ ἑσρακὸς αὐτὸν, ἐν τῷ
5 ἐπιγράφομένῳ Περί Θεμιστοκλέους καὶ Θουκυδίδου καὶ Περικλέους (cf. F
10a).
3 ΠΛΑΤ. *Ion* 530c-d: οἶμαι κάλλιστα ἀνθρώπων λέγειν περὶ Ὀμήρου, ὡς οὔτε
Μητρόδορος ὁ Λαμψακηνὸς οὔτε Στησίμβροτος ὁ Θάσιος οὔτε Γλαύκων
(*FGHist* IV B) οὔτε ἄλλος οὐδεὶς τὸν πόποτε γενομένων ἔσχεν εἰπεῖν οὔτοι
10 πολλὰς καὶ καλάς διανοίας περὶ Ὀμήρου ὅσας ἐγώ.
4 ΧΕΝ. *Symp.* 3,6: οἰσθὰ τι τὸν ἔθνος ... ἡθιθέτερον βρανοθῶν: ... σὺ δὲ (sc.
Νικίρατε) Στησίμβροτῷ τε καὶ Ἀναξίμανδρῳ (*FGHist* 9 T 3) καὶ ἄλλοις
πολλοῖς πολὺ δέδοκας ἀργύριον, ὥστε οὐδὲν σε τὸν πολλοῦ ἀξίον λείψθε.
5 *Suda* A 2681 s.v. Ἀντίμαχος Κολοφώνιος: ... τινὲς δὲ καὶ οἰκέτην αὐτὸν
15 ἀνεγράψαν Πανυσίδος τοῦ ποιητοῦ, πᾶν ψευδόμενοι, ἦν γὰρ αὐτοῦ
ἀκουστής καὶ Στησίμβροτου.

F

1. ΠΕΡΙ ΘΕΜΙΣΤΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΟΥΚΥΔΙΔΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΚΛΕΟΥΣ
(F 1-11)

1 (= *FHG* II p. 52 F 1) ΠΛΑΤ. *Them.* 2,5-6: Καίτοι Στησίμβροτος
Ἀναξάγρου τε διακοῦσαι τὸν Θεμιστοκλέα φησὶ καὶ περὶ Μέλισσαν
σπουδᾶσαι τὸν φυσικόν, οὐκ εὖ τὸν χρόνον ἀπόμενος: Περικλεῖ γάρ, ὡς πολὺ
20 νεώτερος ἦν Θεμιστοκλέου, Μέλισσος μὲν ἀντεσπράττει πολιορκουμένην Σαμίον,
Ἀναξάγρος δὲ συνδιέτριβε. Μάλλον οὖν ἂν τις προσέχοι τοῖς Μνησσίδου τὸν
Θεμιστοκλέα τοῦ Φραεσίου Ζηλοτὴν γενέσθαι λέγονται κτλ.

⁶ Γλαύκων *coll.*: Γλαύκος *Sydenham*

digital fragments

- digital libraries & hypertextual models
 - → rethinking the fundamental relation between the fragment and its context of transmission
 - → representing and expressing every element of print conventions in a more dynamic and interconnected way

representing fragments (1)

- constructing truly hypertextual editions, including not only excerpts but links to the scholarly sources from which those excerpts are drawn
- creating meta-information through an accurate and elaborate semantic markup
- producing meta-editions consisting not only of isolated quotations, but also of pointers to the original contexts from which the fragments have been extracted

representing fragments (2)

- representing multiple transtextual relationships (cf. G. Genette):
 - intertextuality (the presence of a text inside another text, such as quotations, allusions, and plagiarism)
 - paratextuality (all those elements which are not part of the text, like titles, subtitles, prefaces, notes, etc.)
 - metatextuality (critical relations among texts, i.e. commentaries and critical texts)
 - architextuality (the generic quality and status of a text)
 - hypertextuality (i.e., the derivation of a text from a preexisting hypotext through a process of transformation or imitation)

representing fragments (3)

- converting traditional tools and resources used by scholars such as canonical references, tables of concordances, and indexes into machine actionable contents
- providing scholars with an interconnected corpus of primary and secondary sources of fragments that also includes critical apparatuses, commentaries, translations, and modern bibliography on ancient texts

1- fragment as machine actionable link

- linking the fragment to the whole text of the source in which it is transmitted
- reading the fragment directly inside its context of transmission
- avoiding the misleading idea of an independent material existence of fragmentary texts (which derives from typographical representation of excerpts that are actually the result of modern reconstructions of lost works)

2 – start and end of a fragment

- marking the beginning and the end of a fragment quoted in a text (according to the choices of different editors, who can publish a longer or shorter portion of the same fragment)
- displaying simultaneously the representation of different lengths of the same fragment (based on editions that have adopted different textual criteria)

3 – numbering and ordering fragments

- numbering and ordering fragments may vary in a significant way from one edition to another (according to different internal or external characteristics of the fragments)
- encoding this kind of information, usually registered in the table of concordances of a printed edition
- aligning multiple references to the same textual object
→ to help the reader visualize different numberings and orderings of fragments in different editions, including new data if new editions are added

4 – information on fragmentary authors and works

- developing a comprehensive catalog of unique identifiers for every fragmentary author and work
- including multiple expressions of the same author and work
- associating meta-data to each entry
- creating a sort of “canon” that includes all available information on fragmentary authors and works with pointers to primary and secondary sources

5 – classifying fragments

- fragments are classifiable according to multiple criteria (*testimonia*, *fragmenta*, literary genres, etc.)
- print representation →
repetition of the same fragment in many different sections of the same collection
(sections corresponding to different categories of classification of fragments)
- digital representation →
providing fragments with multiple meta-data expressing the complexity of modern classifications
(while not scattering and repeating the same excerpt many different times)

textual variants and conjectures

- multiple editions and alignment of citation schemes
- building a “multitext”
= “a network of versions with a single, reconstructed root”
- dynamic visualization of the textual tradition
→ perceiving the different channels of transmission and philological production of the text (usually hidden in the static, concise, and selective critical apparatuses of standard printed editions)
- producing multiple versions of the same text
→ representation of the different steps of its transmission and reconstruction, from manuscript variants to philological conjectures

secondary and tertiary sources

- digital representation of fragmentary texts:
 - links to secondary and tertiary sources
 - dynamic and interconnected corpus of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources

- secondary sources (*loci paralleli*)
 - sources quoting or paraphrasing the same fragment
 - sources treating the same subject of the fragment

- tertiary sources
 - modern bibliography (monographs, papers, encyclopedia, grammars, translations, and other bibliographical tools)

translation and commentary

- multiple translations into multiple languages
→ comparing different interpretations and linguistic restitutions of the same passage
- creating machine actionable dictionaries and dynamic lexica of Greek and Latin words and their corresponding terms in modern languages
- link to multiple commentaries drawn from the editons of fragments and source texts
→ including every possible annotation in order to identify every phenomenon pertaining to the text

conclusion

- textual fragments as hypertext
 - a text derived from another text and interconnected to many other different typologies of texts

- textual fragment as multitext
 - the result of a work of stratification of manuscript variants and scholarly conjectures

Projects

Representing Citations in the Deipnosophists of Athenaeus

(<http://www.fragmentarytexts.org>)

a new project of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, which aims at investigating the *Deipnosophists* of Athenaeus, in order:

- to carry out a systematic survey of the citations preserved in the fifteen books of this work
- to build a fully comprehensive repository of the quotation schemes used by Athenaeus when alluding to his source of information.

Thank you!

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