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- Preferred panel: Literature of Knowledge
- Title: Posidonius' Use of Aristotle: the Question about the Lost Texts of the Aristotelian *Corpus* (20 minutes)
  
- Abstract:

Through the works of Strabo, Plutarch and Athenaeus is known a famous story about the disappearance of the papyri written by Aristotle and Theophrast, when they were inherited by Neleus of Skepsis. According to the sources, he took all the works of the Lyceus' library from Athens to Skepsis, where his heirs kept them hidden during two centuries, and later sold them to a certain Apellicon of Teos, a wealthy bibliophile and collector of rarities. Since the time of Neleus, then, until the *editio princeps* of the *Corpus*, done by Andronicus of Rhodes using the old collection of Apellicon, the ancient Peripatetics could not read the works of Aristotle.

Most of the elements of this story are now considered as mere legend. The obvious knowledge of the Aristotelian thought by epicureans and stoics during the period in which the books were supposedly not available makes clear that the loss of the *Corpus* was not so serious. The case of Posidonius of Apamea has to be considered as special, among the ones who used the works of Aristotle during these problematic period: from the study of his use of the Aristotelian works can be deduced some interesting conclusions about the extent to which the legend has a real basis, that deserves to be believed, the differences of the versions of the *Corpus* kept in the various centres of culture at that moment (Athens, Alexandria, Rhodes), and the history of some works of the *Corpus*, as *Meteorology*.