

Recommended Reading for SHWEP Episode 213: Maria Papathanassiou on Stephanos of Alexandria

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1 Primary Sources

Stephanos' alchemical treatise can be read from the digitised manuscript, Marcianus Gr. Z. 299, through the kind offices of the Italian Ministry of Culture.

Go to <https://www.internetculturale.it/>, search for Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Gr. Z. 299 (=584), and start browsing. You want 8r and following pages for Steph.

Editions and Translations:

William Charlton, editor. *Philoponus: On Aristotle On the Soul 3.9-13 with Stephanos: On Aristotle On Interpretation*. Ancient Commentators on Aristotle. Bloomsbury, London, 2014.

Stephanos of Alexandria. On the Great and Sacred Art of Making Gold. In J. L. Ideler, editor, *Physici et medici græci minores*, pages 199–247. Leipzig, 1842. Reprinted Amsterdam 1963.

Maria K. Papathanassiou. *Stephanos von Alexandria und sein alchemistisches Werk*. Athens, 2017 [edition with extensive notes and commentary. Renders obsolete Ideler 1942, whom we include because he is often cited as the *editio princeps*].

Hermann Usener. De Stephano Alexandrino. In *Kleine Schriften von Hermann Usener*, volume III, pages 295–319. Leipzig-Berlin, 1914 [I think this remains for now the place to find the edition of the astrological work containing the ‘Horoscope of Islam’].

2 Generally Useful on Stephanos

See introductory articles in Richard Goulet, editor. *Dictionnaire des philosophes antiques*. CNRS Éditions, Paris, 1989-2018, VI 563–79; Maria K. Papathanassiou. Stephanus of Alexandria. In *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, volume 8. 2008. The standard work, still amazingly useful after more than a century, was long Hermann Usener. De Stephano Alexandrino. In *Kleine Schriften von Hermann Usener*, volume III, pages 295–319. Leipzig-Berlin, 1914.

Also useful:

Henry J. Blumenthal. John Philoponus and Stephanus of Alexandria: Two Neoplatonic Christian Commentators on Aristotle? In Dominic J. O’Meara, editor, *Neoplatonism and Christian Thought*, pages 54–63. State University of New York Press, Albany, NY, 1982.

E. Chauvon. Étude sur le Commentaire astronomique de Stephanos d’Alexandrie, 1979-80 [Mémoire de Licence, Université Catholique de Louvain].

A. Lumpe. Stephanos von Alexandrien und Kaiser Herakleios. *Class. and Mediaev. Dissert.*, 9:150–59, 1973.

Maria Papathanassiou. Stephanos of Alexandria: A Famous Byzantine Scholar, Alchemist and Astrologer. In Paul Magdalino and Maria Mavroudi, editors, *The Occult Sciences in Byzantium*, pages 163–203. La Pomme d’Or, Geneva, 2006.

W. Wolska-Conus. Stéphane d’Athènes et Stéphane d’Alexandrie. Essai d’identification et de biographie. *Revue des Études Byzantines*, 47:5–89, 1989.

3 Stephanos' Alchemy

See above all Maria K. Papathanassiou. *Stephanos von Alexandria und sein alchemistisches Werk*. Athens, 2017.

Also useful:

M. K. Papathanassiou. Stephanus of Alexandria: Pharmaceutical Notions and Cosmology in his Alchemical Work. *Ambix*, 37,3:121–33, 1990.

M. K. Papathanassiou. Stephanus of Alexandria: On the Structure and Date of his Alchemical Work. *Medicina nei Secoli*, 8(2):247–66, 1996.

M. K. Papathanassiou. L'œuvre alchimique de Stéphane d'Alexandrie: Structure et transformations de la matière, unité et pluralité, l'énigme des philosophes. *Chrysopoeia*, VII:11–31, 2000-2003.

Maria K. Papathanassiou. Stéphane d'Alexandrie. La tradition patristique dans son œuvre alchimique. In E. Nicolaidis, editor, *Greek Alchemy from Late Antiquity to Early Modernity*, pages 71–97. Brepols, 2018.

Maria K. Papathanassiou. *Stéphanos d'Alexandrie. Techniques et calendrier de la chrysopée*. EIKASMOS on-line. Athens, 2020a [p. 64].

Maria K. Papathanassiou. The Occult Sciences in Byzantium. In S. Lazaris, editor, *A Companion to Byzantine Science*, pages 464–95. Brill, Leiden, 2020b.

Maria K. Papathanassiou. The Poet-Alchemists and their Relation to Stephanos of Alexandria. In Gerasimos Merianos, editor, *Alchemy in Byzantium*. forthcoming 2026.

F. Sherwood Taylor. The Alchemical Works of Stephanos of Alexandria, Part I. *Ambix*, 1:116–39, 1937–1938.

F. Sherwood Taylor. The Alchemical Works of Stephanos of Alexandria, Part II. *Ambix*, 2:39–49, 1938.

4 Stephanos and Astronomy/Astrology

Jean Lempire. D'alexandrie à constantinople: Le commentaire astronomique de Stéphane. *Byzantion*, pages 241–66, 2011.

O. Neugebauer and H. B. van Hoesen. *Greek Horoscopes*. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA, 1959 [pp. 158–60].

O. Neugebauer. *A History of Ancient Mathematical Astronomy*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, NY, 1975 [II, pp. 1050–1051].

Maria K. Papathanassiou, Stephanos of Alexandria: The astrological treatise or the Horoscope of Islam, (in Greek): Μ. Κ. Παπαθανασίου, Στεφάνου Ἀλεξανδρέως Ἀποτελεσματικὴ πραγματεία ἢ Ὠροσκοπίον τοῦ Ἰσλάμ, Οἱ ἐπιστήμες στὸν ἐλληνικὸ χῶρο, ΕΙΕ, Τροχαλία, 1997, 17–117.

Maria Papathanassiou. Stephanos of Alexandria: A Famous Byzantine Scholar, Alchemist and Astrologer. In Paul Magdalino and Maria Mavroudi, editors, *The Occult Sciences in Byzantium*, pages 163–203. La Pomme d'Or, Geneva, 2006 [On the astrological treatise, pp. 189 ff.].

Maria K. Papathanassiou. *Stephanos von Alexandria und sein alchemistisches Werk*. Athens, 2017 [On the astrological treatise, pp. 47-55].

Maria K. Papathanassiou. The Occult Sciences in Byzantium. In S. Lazaris, editor, *A Companion to Byzantine Science*, pages 464–95. Brill, Leiden, 2020b.

David Pingree. Classical and Byzantine Astrology in Sasanian Persia. *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, 43:227–39, 1989 [esp. 238–39].

Hermann Usener. De Stephano Alexandrino. In *Kleine Schriften von Hermann Usener*, volume III, pages 295–319. Leipzig-Berlin, 1914 [pp. 247–322].