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PRESENTING FRAGMENTS AS QUOTATIONS OR QUOTATIONS AS FRAGMENTS (ALEXANDRA TRACHSEL)

When dealing with the fragments of Demetrios' work, we are facing texts which are only transmitted through indirect transmission. This means that we have to rely on quotations made by ancient authors to get access to his work. Unfortunately we do not have kept the different steps of this initial selection-process and cannot measure the difference between the original lost work and the form ancient authors gave those quoted passages when introducing them into their own works. Likewise, the modern editors, when trying to extract the passages out of the source-texts in order to compose their collections of fragments, base their choices on selective principles which depend on their own understanding of the source-texts. Their choices may therefore differ widely and provide competing reconstructions of the lost work.
