

## Dio and the poets

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Dio's essays are full of classical poetry. Dio cites, seeks confirmation in, and disagrees with the purport of passages of poetry just as do so virtually all Greek philosophers and moralisers. Dio is, however, a particularly instructive source in this context because, more than most ancient writers, he sometimes discusses the rationale for citation, both general and particular. This paper starts from a consideration of such discussion in Oration 7 (the Euboikos) and then looks in greater detail at two of the essays most concerned with the effect in the present of the poetry of the past: Oration 2 (the Second Kingship Oration) and Oration 36 (Borysthenitikos).