

## *The Philosophical Uses of 'historia' in Porphyry*

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One of the most signal differences between Plotinus and his student Porphyry whether in content, tone, or topical range is the profusion of historical information and interests in the writings of the latter. While Porphyry was never named a *histōr* (but rather a *philosophos* who was *polymathēs* and *polytheamōn*), investigations into areas that we would distinguish as historical, ethnographic, scientific, and philological are offered in almost every work of his surviving corpus. These are precisely the sort of areas of inquiry that fell under the ancient rubric of *historia*. The paper to be delivered at Oxford will examine the occurrence of *historia* in Porphyry's writings, before turning to some particular problems attendant on any attempt to appreciate his historiographical assumptions.