

Seneca - General Background

Post by "Cassius" of July 20, 2024 at 11:35 AM

It appears Seneca learned his eclecticism very early. Wikipedia has this information on Seneca's early teachers, who were of the eclectic school known as the "School of the Sextii":

School of the Sextii

The **School of the Sextii** was an eclectic [Ancient Roman school of philosophy](#) founded around 50 BC by [Quintus Sextius the Elder](#) and continued by his son, [Sextius Niger](#), however it went extinct shortly after in 19 AD due to the ban on foreign cults.^[1] The school blended elements of [Pythagorean](#), [Platonic](#), [Cynic](#), and [Stoic](#) philosophy together^[2] with a belief in an elusive incorporeal power pervades the body in order to emphasize asceticism, honesty, and moral training through nightly examinations of conscience as a means of achieving [eudaimonia](#).^[3] The primary sources of information on the school are [Seneca the Younger](#), who was taught by one of its members named [Sotion](#), and the 5th century writer [Claudianus Mamertus](#).^[3] Other members of the school included [Papirius Fabianus](#), [Crassicius Pasicles](#), [Celsus](#).^[3] While [Seneca the Younger](#) often conflates the school with Stoicism, the Sextians were not as inclined to rigorous logical exercises or any abstruse abstract thinking, and unlike the [Stoics](#), advocated avoidance of [politics](#), engaging in the correspondence between words and life, and vegetarianism.^[4]