

References For The Discussion Of Polyaenus

Post by “Cassius” of August 9, 2020 at 5:10 AM

[Wikipedia's Entry](#) as of 08/09/20:

Polyaenus of Lampsacus (/ˌpɒliːˈiːnəs/ *POL-ee-EE-nəs*; Greek: Πολύαινος Λαμψακηνός, *Polyainos Lampsakēnos*; c. 340 – c. 285 BCE), also spelled **Polyenus**, was an ancient Greek mathematician and a friend of Epicurus.

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Life

He was the son of Athenodorus. His friendship with Epicurus started after the latter's escape from Mytilene in 307 or 306 BC when he opened a philosophical school at Lampsacus associating himself with other citizens of the town, like Pythocles, Colotes, and Idomeneus. With these fellow citizens he moved to Athens, where they founded a school of philosophy with Epicurus as head, or *hegemon*, while Polyaenus, Hermarchus and Metrodorus were *kathegemones*.

A man of mild and friendly manners, as Philodemus refers, he adopted fully the philosophical system of his friend, and, although he had previously acquired great reputation as a mathematician, he now maintained with Epicurus the worthlessness of geometry.^{[1][2]} But the statement may be at least doubted, since it is certain Polyaenus wrote a mathematical work called *Puzzles* (Greek: Απορίαι) in which the validity of geometry is maintained. It was against this treatise that another Epicurean, Demetrius Lacon, wrote *Unsolved questions of Polyaenus* (Greek: Πρὸς τὰς Πολυαίνου ἀπορίας) in the 2nd century BCE. Like Epicurus, a considerable number of spurious works seem to have been assigned to him; one of these was *Against the Orators*, whose authenticity was attacked both by Zeno of Sidon and his pupil Philodemus.

Writings

The works attributed to Polyaenus include:^[3]

- *On Definitions*
- *On Philosophy*
- *Against Aristo*
- *Puzzles (Aporiai)*
- *On the Moon*

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1650-references-for-the-discussion-of-polyaenus/?postID=8517#post8517>

- *Against the Orators*
- His collected *Letters*.