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Aspasios of Tyre (793)

T 1

Suda, s.v. Aspasios of Tyre

Translation

Subject: **genre: biography**Source Date: **10th century AD**Historian's Date: **Unknown**

Historical Period:

σοφιστής ιστορικός. ἔγραψε Περὶ Τύρου καὶ τῶν ἐν αὐτῇ· Ἱστορίαν σύμμικτον ἐν βιβλίοις κ'· Περὶ τέχνης ῥητορικῆς· καὶ ἄλλα.

Sophist, historian. He wrote a work **On Tyre and its inhabitants**; a **Miscellaneous History** in twenty books; **On the Art of Rhetoric**; etc.

Commentary

Aspasios of Tyre's historical writings (**On Tyre and its inhabitants** and **Miscellaneous History**) are only attested through their mention in this **Suda** entry.

There might be a slight clue about his activities as a *rhêtôr*: M. Heath, 'Aspines and Pseudo-Aspines' *AJP* 119 (1998), 89-111, proposes to identify **Aspasios' On the Art of Rhetoric** with a rhetorical treatise attributed in the manuscripts to **Aspines** (see M.R. Dilts and G.A. Kennedy, *Two Greek Rhetorical Treatises from the Roman Empire : Introduction, Text, and Translation of the Arts of Rhetoric Attributed to Anonymous Segerianus and to Aspines of Gadara* (Leiden 1997)). Traditionally, this **Aspines** has been understood as **Valerius Aspines of Gadara**, a *rhêtôr* mentioned in **Philostratus** and the **Suda** and born probably in the late second century AD.

Heath's complex and conjectural argument rests mainly on the fact that **Aspines** himself is suspiciously mentioned several times in the treatise (Dilts-Kennedy, *Two Greek Rhetorical Treatises*, xxiv-xxv). Given the fact that a Scholion to **Demosthenes** (20.4 16a, 99.1-2 Dilts) refers to '**Aspines** and **Aspasios**', Heath suggests that this **Aspasios** should be the author of the treatise and that he was referring to his master's work. Therefore, Heath argues that **Pseudo-Aspines** could be identified with **Aspasios of Tyre**, the only one of the three rhetoricians named Aspasios who could be a pupil of Aspines and fit the chronology. This proposition has been rejected (prudently, I think) by H. Yunis in *BMCR* 1998.08.08 (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/1998/1998-08-08.html>).

Biographical Essay

It is impossible to supply certain details on this man: see commentary on T 1.

Bibliography

E. Schwartz, 'Aspasios (1)', *RE* II.2 (1896), col. 1722

M. Heath, 'Aspines and Pseudo-Aspines', *AJP* 119 (1998), 89-111

Busine, Aude (Bruxelles)

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