The Academy through Epicurean Eyes: Some Lives of Academic Philosophers in Philodemus’ *Syntaxis*

The papyri: *PHerc* 1021 (opisthographic roll thought to contain an early draft)  
*PHerc* 164 (very badly damaged, short fragments from a later –final?- version)


1. Philodemus’ *Syntaxis*  
συνεφιλοσόφουν δ’ αὐτῷ προτρεψαµένῳ καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τρεῖς ὅντες, Νεοκλῆς Χαιρέδηµος Ἀριστόβουλος, καθά φησι Φιλόδηµος ὁ Ἐπικούρειος ἐν τῷ δεκάτῳ τῆς τῶν φιλοσόφων συντάξεως.

At his (sc. Epicurus’) instigation his three brothers, Neocles, Chaeredemus, and Aristobulus, joined in his studies, according to Philodemus the Epicurean in the tenth book of his Collection/System of the Philosophers. (D.L. 10.3)

2. ‘Successions’ genre  
Δηµήτριος δέ φησιν ἐν τοῖς Ὑµωνύµοις τὸν µυκτῆρα αὐτὸν ἀποτραγεῖν. Ἀντισθένης δὲ ἐν ταῖς ∆ιαδοχαῖς φησι µετὰ τὸ µηνῦσαι τοὺς φίλους ἐρωτηθῆναι πρὸς τοῦ τυράννου εἴ τις ἄλλος εἴη...

Demetrius in his work on *Men of the Same Name* says that he (sc. Zeno of Elea) bit off, not the ear, but the nose. According to Antisthenes in his *Successions of Philosophers*, after informing against the tyrant’s friends, he was asked by the tyrant whether there was anyone else in the plot... (D.L. 9.27)

 frags in Dorandi’s text, unless otherwise indicated.

3. ‘Successions’ genre  
Κλειτόµαχος εἰς Ἀκαδήµειαν ἔπεβαλεν µετὰ πολλῶν γνωρίµων Σωκράτος... after a certain Socratides ceded the school to him (sc. to Arcesilaus) (XVIII 2-4)  
(iv) Κλειτόµαχος εἰς Ἀκαδήµειαν ἔπεβαλεν µετὰ πολλῶν γνωρίµων  
Clitomachus burst into the Academy with many associates (XXIV 32-4)
5. The conclusions to Philodemus’ Histories of the Stoa and the Academy

οἱ μὲν οὖν ἀπὸ Ζήνωνος Στοικοὶ διάδοχοι ἐν πάντες αἱ θ’ αἰρέσεις

All the Stoic successors from Zeno and the schools of thought... (Index St. LXXIX 5-7)

Εὐκλείδης ὦν... καὶ τῶν Ἰππότων τῷ Μένικα... ἔτι δὲ τῶν Ἰππότων τῷ Πήδῳ ἔτοιμος ὦν

Collection [of the successes from?] Euclid and from Plato, and also of the other ensuing schools and successors (Index Ac. XXXVI 15-19)

6. Academics outside the location of the Academy

(i) οδὲν [Μενέδημος] ἐπετρον περίφητον καὶ διάδραμην κατε[σ]κευάσατο, ‘Menedemus set up another school and course of study’ (VII 8-10)

(ii) Ζηνόδωρος Τύριος καὶ τὸν Παλλαδίων ἡγεσάμενου, ‘Zenodorus of Tyre who taught at Alexandria’ (XXIII 2-3)

(iii) σύνολον ἦν ἐπί Παλλαδίων... συνεστήσατο ἄρχοντήν τοῦ Ἀνεγνώμου, ‘(Clitomachus) set up his own school in the archonship of Hagnos’ (149/9 BC) (XXV 8-10)

(iv) καὶ πράγματον ἐξειρεύοντας ἢκαὶ καὶ ὥσπερ μὴν ἔργον, ἀνεγνώμονος δὲ πολλά, ἔργον [Ἑρ]του ἐχεις πολίτειας τοις κάνοις ἔστει ἄλοχους

... being sufficiently experienced in practical matters and naturally gifted with strong memory, and having read many things, he (no name survives: Charmadas?) easily gained citizenship and opened a school at the Ptolemaeum... (XXXII 3-8)

(v) ο[ι] ήτοι ήτοι ἐν ἔστει τῇ ζολῆς πεποιθήμενοι, ‘and those who did not teach within the city’ (XXII 13-15)

7. Character traits explained through philosophical positions

[ἕ̄ν]σον <χρ>έαινε δὲ καὶ τῇ ἐπὶ πράγματα ἠναγγελείς, ἀξιῶν ἐν τοῖς πράγμασιν γνωστῆσαν. διὸ καὶ κατὰ τὴν ἐπὶ τῇ ἐπιρήμηντος αὐθεντήμονος ἤς ἢ καὶ παντὸς ἔξω πολιτικῶς ἀσύστεις

He (sc. Polemo) disapproved of those who drove questions to impossibilities, requiring that people train in practical questions. This is why in argumentation he insisted on linguistic correctness and avoided all witticism (XIV 4-10)

δὸμα δ’ οὐδὲν οὖν ἀπερείνω συνετείνης, διὸ καὶ τῶν προσώπων διάστασιν κατὰ τὴν ἠκολούθησαν τὰς αἱρέσεις αὐτῶν, ὅλην μὲν ἐπὶ τὸ κατεσταλμένον καὶ μέτριον, οἱ πολλοὶ δ’ ἐπὶ τὸ ψυχοτιμέρεον καὶ διασταλτικὴν ἐπὶ τραπέντες.

He (sc. Arcesilaus) did not come up with any doctrine or any set of opinions. For this reason his associates differed among themselves in character and opinions, some tended to be restrained and measured, but most turned more arrogant and aggressive (XVIII 40 – XIX 7)

8. The Metrodorean interpretation of Carneades

Μητρόδωρος δ’ ἐπὶ τὸν Στρατονικαῖος ἐξ Ἐρ_TIMEOSTENΟΥ παρακηκοέναι τὸ πάντως, οὐ γὰρ ὅκα τῆλη ἑπτὰ νῦνοικέναι πάντα...

Metrodorus of Stratonicea ... said that everyone had misunderstood Carneades, for he had not believed that all things are inapprehensible (XXVI 4-11)

9. Philodemus and Antiochus

ἡγαμημονοὶ ὑπὸ πολλῶν κάλμον καὶ αὐτὸς [Η]μέλα ἀποιδεδεγμένος.

He (sc. Antiochus) had been loved by many people, including me, and had himself received us hospitably (XXXIV 43 – XXXV 2, text from Blank)
10. Academics with other school allegiances

(i) ἐφει δ’ Αρκεσίλαος ὅτι αὐτὸι παρὰ Θεοφράστου μετελθόντι φανεῖσαν ὦ περὶ τὸν
Πολέμωνα ἔθει τίνες ἢ λεγόμενα τῶν ἐργαίοι εἰκόνων καὶ τῶν ἐκ τοῦ χρυσοῦ γένους
dιαπεράσματιν αὐτοῦ[θήρ]ότον...

Arcesilaus said that when he came over from Theophrastus Polemo and his associates seemed like
gods or remnants of those ancient people of the golden race (XXI 4-10)

(ii) <...>, δεῖ μεταθέσθαι τὴν ἡδονὴν ἀπὸ δοκίμασιν

(Name missing) who, having switched position, said that pleasure is the telos (XX 39-42)


Metrodorus of Stratonicea, who earlier had been a pupil of the Epicureans... (XXIV 9-12)

12. Circulation of texts

αὐτὸν διὰ τῆς ἀναγραφῆς τῶν λέγων. ἐπιπολ[οί]ως δὲ καὶ [τινας] ἐπο[τ]ῆς ἐκ
φιλοσοφοῦν...

He promoted philosophy and destroyed it. For he encouraged innumerable people so to speak
towards philosophy through his written dialogues. But he made some philosophize superficially...
(I 10-16)

(ii) λέον[θ]ευτα ὑπὸ Κράντορος ὑπομνήματα [φησί] διὰ χειρὸς ἔχειν καὶ μεταληθεῖν τινές
αὐτὸν ἔφασαν αὐτὰ γεγραφήναι, τιν[ές] δ’ αὐτὸς συνέγραψε κατακεκαυ[ναι].

... he (sc. Philodemus’ source) says that he (sc. Arcesilaus) had some notes left behind by Crantor
in his hands, and changed them. Some say that he had written them himself, others that he burnt
φασν οἱ μὲν ἐκδοῦναι, οἱ δὲ κατακαυσάσα."...

(iii) Ζήνων Ἀλεξανδρεύς ὁ καὶ σχολᾶς ἀναγράψας αὐτὸι καὶ προσαπαλλάξας –
t[[.]] ὡς ὥν δὲ καὶ τῶν ὑπομνήματος ἀναγραφυσκομένων | ἐπεξεργαζότα ὡς ὥν |
ἐπὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐξ[ε]τα ἐτο "Ἀγνὸν Ταρσεύς ὁ καὶ εὐνόω<ω>ς | ἀν[ά]γερβ[ψ]ας ἐκ τῶν
σχ. ἡλίον πλέον | ὡς δὲ καὶ ἐπαινούμενος...

Zeno of Alexandria who wrote up his lectures and died before him – they say that during a reading
of the notes Carneades rebuked him in front of the others very strongly... Hagnon of Tarsus who
wrote more notes from the lectures favourably and was praised ... (XXII 37 – XXIII 6)

See also: Πυθόδωρος [ὁ καὶ] | σχολᾶς ἀναγραφῶς αὐτοῦ, ΞΧ 43-4, on Arcesilaus; Ἀπολλώνιος δ’

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