

Abstract: Sharing the same destiny as the *Onomasticon*, which has mostly been studied as a repository of *Realien*, the prefatory letters introducing each of the ten books of Pollux's lexicon have so far eluded a comprehensive analysis. Setting out from the renewed interest in Pollux' methodology and authorial voice in recent scholarship, this article provides a holistic study of the prefatory letters within the structure and aims of the *Onomasticon*. It argues that in these programmatic texts Pollux constructs the ideological framework through which he situates his work within the context of contemporary rhetoric and technical literature.

Keywords: Pollux, Prefatory letters, Lexicography, Rhetoric, Atticism.