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.