

# ANCIENT WRITERS

**Appian** (A.D. 95–165)—a Greek writer from Alexandria who spent considerable time in Rome before authoring his *Roman History*.

**Aquila** (second century A.D.)—a Greek from Sinope in Pontus who converted to Judaism and later translated the Old Testament into Greek; his version was reproduced in Origen’s *Hexapla*.

**Augustine** (A.D. 354–430)—a bishop of Hippo and theologian who wrote numerous letters, sermons, and philosophical dialogues (including his well-known *Confessions* and *City of God*).

**Ben Sirach** (second century B.C.)—a Jewish sage from Jerusalem who wrote the apocryphal book known as Sirach or Ecclesiasticus.

**Berosus** (third century B.C.)—a Babylonian astronomer and historian who wrote *History of Babylonia* in Greek.

**Dio Cassius** (A.D. 150–235)—a Greek and a grandson of Dio Chrysostom who became a Roman administrator and historian; his history of Rome (*Romaika*) originally consisted of eighty volumes.

**Dio Chrysostom** (A.D. 40–120)—a Greek politician and philosopher whose *Discourses* reflect both political and moral concerns.

**Diodorus Siculus** (first century B.C.)—a Greek historian born in Sicily whose *Library of History* was comprised of forty books.

**Diuis**—a Greek author who recorded the history of Phoenicia, known only by citations from Josephus’ writings.

**Eusebius** (A.D. 260–340)—a bishop of Caesarea who has been dubbed “the Father of Church History”; he is best known for his *Ecclesiastical History*, which tells the story of the early church from the time of the apostles to his own day.

**Herodotus** (484–425 B.C.)—a Greek historian from Halicarnassus who authored *The Histories* and is known as “the Father of History.”

**Ignatius** (A.D. 35–107)—a church leader of Antioch who was taken by soldiers to Rome for martyrdom; he wrote several letters to churches along the way.

**Irenaeus** (A.D. 130–200)—a bishop of Lyons and theologian who wrote *Against Heresies*, showing the errors of Gnosticism.

**Jerome** (A.D. 342–420)—a biblical scholar who wrote many commentaries and translated the Latin Vulgate; he spent his later years in Bethlehem.

**Josephus, Flavius** (A.D. 37–100)—a Jewish historian who wrote *Antiquities of the Jews*, *Jewish Wars*, and other works after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70; he had been a leader in the Jewish Revolt but later gained the favor of Vespasian and Titus.

**Justin Martyr** (A.D. 100–165)—a Christian apologist who taught in Ephesus and in Rome and whose life ended in martyrdom; his first *Apology* was a defense to the emperor and his sons, whereas the second was addressed to the Roman senate.

**Justus of Tiberias** (first century A.D.)—a Jewish author and historian who was a political enemy of Josephus; he wrote a history of the Jewish people as well as the Jewish War against Rome, although these survive only in fragments.

**Origen** (A.D. 185–254)—a Christian theologian known for his allegorical interpretation of the Scriptures and unusual speculations; his works include *De Principiis*, *Exhortation to Martyrdom*, *On Prayer*, *Against Celsus*, and the *Hexapla*.

**Orosius** (fifth century A.D.)—a Christian historian associated with Augustine who wrote *History Against the Pagans*, which refuted the charge that Rome’s troubles resulted from the adoption of Christianity and the abandonment of the gods.

**Ovid** (43 B.C.—A.D. 17)—a Roman poet best known for his *Metamorphoses*, a fifteen-volume mythological narrative; some of his other poetic writings explore the theme of love.

**Philo** (20 B.C.–A.D. 50)—a Jewish philosopher and exegete from Alexandria who used allegorical interpretation to parallel Greek philosophy with the Old Testament.

**Philostratus**—a Greek author who wrote *History of Phoenicia*, which was quoted by Josephus.

**Philostratus, Flavius** (A.D. 170–247)—a Greek sophist who studied in Athens and later flourished at Rome; he wrote the biography of the first-century philosopher Apollonius of Tyana.

**Pliny the Elder** (A.D. 23–79)—a Roman naval and army commander who also was a philosopher and naturalist; he wrote *Natural History* and ultimately died in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

**Pliny the Younger** (A.D. 61–113)—a nephew of Pliny the Elder who became the governor of the Bithynia-Pontus province; the bulk of his surviving works are his *Letters*, which include correspondence with the emperor Trajan.

**Plutarch** (A.D. 46–120)—a priest at Delphi who wrote *Lives of the Roman Emperors* as well as *Parallel Lives*, a biography of important Greeks and Romans.

**Polybius** (200–118 B.C.)—a Greek writer who wrote *The Histories*, which describes the rise of the Roman Republic.

**Polycarp** (A.D. 69–155)—a church leader of Smyrna and influential leader in the churches of Asia Minor during the second century; he wrote a letter to the Philippians and was martyred in his old age.

**Seneca the Younger** (4 B.C.–A.D. 65)—a Roman philosopher, dramatist, and statesman who served as a tutor and later an adviser for Nero; he wrote tragedies, essays, and letters about moral issues.

**Strabo** (64 B.C.–A.D. 24)—a Greek geographer, historian, and philosopher who traveled extensively throughout the Roman Empire and wrote *Geography*.

**Suetonius** (A.D. 69–130)—a Roman historian who wrote about the lives of the emperors up to the Flavian dynasty in *The Twelve Caesars*.

**Tacitus, Gaius Cornelius** (A.D. 56–120)—a Roman senator and historian who wrote *Annals* and *Histories*, works that originally covered the Roman Empire from the death of Augustus (A.D. 14) to the death of Domitian (A.D. 96).

**Tatian** (A.D. 120–180)—a Syrian Christian who compiled the *Diatessaron*, a continuous narrative drawing from the four Gospel Accounts.

**Thucydides** (460–400 B.C.)—a Greek general, philosopher, and historian who wrote *History of the Peloponnesian War*; he has been dubbed “the Father of Scientific History” because of his high standards of gathering and evaluating evidence.

**Virgil** (70–19 B.C.)—a Roman poet known for the *Georgics*, the *Eclogues*, and the epic *Aeneid*.