

## Lucillius' Boxer Epigrams

**Link to abstract:** <https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2020/abstracts/2073LucilliusBoxer.pdf>

### What is known about Lucillius:

- Epigrammatic poet writing in Greek
- Flourished during the reign of Nero
- ~140 poems preserved in the *Palatine Anthology*

Greek text (from Floridi)	Translation
1. <i>AP</i> 11.75: Οὗτος ὁ νῦν τοιοῦτος Ὀλυμπικός εἶχε, Σεβαστέ ῥίνα, γένειον, ὄφρυν, ὠτάρια, βλέφαρα· εἶτ' ἀπογραψάμενος πύκτης ἀπολώλεκε πάντα, ὥστ' ἐκ τῶν πατρικῶν μηδὲ λαβεῖν τὸ μέρος· εἰκόνιον γὰρ ἀδελφὸς ἔχων προενήνοκχεν αὐτοῦ, καὶ κέκριτ' ἀλλότριος μηδὲν ὁμομιον ἔχων.	This Olympikos used to have, Augustus, a nose, a chin, an eyebrow, ears, eyelids: But by signing himself up as a boxer he lost all, So that he did not either keep his part of his patrimony: His brother indeed produced his portrait in court and he was judged alien to it, bearing no resemblance.
2. <i>AP</i> 11.76 and 11.77 are also boxer poems that fit with the argument of this talk, but I have removed discussion of them for lack of time.	
3. <i>AP</i> 11.78: Κόσκινον ἢ κεφαλή σου, Ἀπολλόφανες, γεγένηται ἢ τῶν σητοκόπων βυβλαρίων τὰ κάτω· ὄντως μυρμήκων τρυπήματα λοξὰ καὶ ὀρθά, γράμματα τῶν λυρικῶν Λύδια καὶ Φρύγια. πλὴν ἀφόβως πύκτευσ· καὶ ἦν τρωθῆς γὰρ ἄνωθεν, ταῦθ' ὅσ' ἔξεις· πλείονα δ' οὐ δύνασαι.	Your head, Apollophanes, has become a sieve, or the lower margins of moth-eaten little books: Or in fact the oblique and straight holes made by ants, those characters of Lydian and Phrygian lyrics. But box fearlessly: for even if you are wounded again, you will have as many as you have: more are impossible.
4. <i>AP</i> 11.79: Πύκτης ὢν κατέλυσε Κλεόμβροτος· εἶτα γαμήσας ἔνδον ἔχει πληγῶν Ἴσθμια καὶ Νέμεα, γραῦν μαχίμην τύπτουσιν Ὀλυμπια καὶ τὰ παρ' αὐτῷ μᾶλλον ἰδεῖν φρίσσων ἢ ποτε τὸ στάδιον. ἂν γὰρ ἀναπνεύσῃ, δέρεται τὰς παντὸς ἀγῶνος πληγὰς, ὡς ἀποδῶ· κἂν ἀποδῶ, δέρεται.	Kleombrotos the boxer retired: now, having married, he receives at home an Isthmia and Nemea of blows, a pugnacious old woman beating an Olympia on him and for his part he trembles more at this sight than he ever did at the stadium. Should he regain breath, he is flayed by the blows of the whole contest, that he repay them: and if he should repay them, he is flayed.
5. <i>AP</i> 11.80: Οἱ συναγωνισταὶ τὸν πυγμάχον ἐνθάδ' ἔθηκαν Ἄπιν· οὐδένα γὰρ πάποτ' ἔτραυμάτισεν.	His opponents dedicated this to the boxer Apis: for he never wounded anybody.

<p>6. AP 11.81: Πᾶσαν ὅσαν Ἴλληνας ἀγωνοθετοῦσιν ἄμιλλαν πυγμαῆς, Ἀνδρόλεως πᾶσαν ἀγωνισάμαν· ἔσχω δ' ἐν Πίσῃ μὲν ἐν ὠτίον, ἐν δὲ Πλαταιαῖς ἐν βλέφαρον· Πυθοῖ δ' ἄπνοος ἐκφέρομαι· Δαμοτέλης δ' ὁ πατὴρ καρύσσετο σὺν πολιῆταις ἄραί με σταδίων ἢ νεκρὸν ἢ κολοβόν.</p>	<p>All of the competitions in which Greeks compete I, Androleos the boxer entered all of them: At Pisa I saved one ear, and at Plataea one eyebrow: but at Pythia I was borne out breathless: and it was announced to Damoteles my father and to our fellow citizens that I was carried out of the stadium either a corpse or mutilated.</p>
<p>7. AP 9.572: Μουσᾶων Ἑλικωνιάδων ἀρχώμεθ' αἰεῖδεν, ἔγραφε ποιμαίνων, ὡς λόγος, Ἡσίοδος. μῆνιν ἄειδε, θεά καὶ ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, εἶπεν Ὀμηρεῖω Καλλιόπῃ στόματι. κάμῃ δὲ δεῖ γράψαι τι προοίμιον. ἀλλὰ τί γράψω δεύτερον ἐκδιδόναι βιβλίον ἀρχόμενος; Μοῦσαι Ὀλυμπιάδες, κοῦραι Διός, οὐκ ἂν ἐσώθην, εἰ μὴ μοι Καῖσαρ χαλκὸν ἔδωκε Νέρων.</p>	<p>From the Heliconian Muses I begin to sing, wrote Hesiod as a shepherd, as the story goes. Goddess, sing the rage and tell me about the man, Muse Said Kalliope through a Homeric mouth. And I need to write some proem. But what will I write As I begin to set down my second book? Olympian Muses, daughters of Zeus, I would not have survived if Nero Caesar had not given me a few bucks.</p>

#### Select Bibliography

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