

## Contents

<i>Abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 <i>Vita Polycarpi</i>	3
2 Date	4
2.1 Earlier discussion	4
2.2 The literary history of the <i>vita</i>	7
2.2.1 The significance of Pascha of the prescript for dating the <i>vita</i>	13
2.3 Pionius	19
2.4 Other arguments for a third-century date	20
3 Authorship and place of production	22
4 <i>Vita Polycarpi</i> as legitimatory philosophical <i>vita</i>	26
4.1 The purpose of ancient biography	26
4.2 The biographical form and function of <i>Vita Polycarpi</i>	31
4.3 The Jews, pagans and heretics of <i>Vita Polycarpi</i>	36
4.3.1 Heretics	36
4.3.2 Jews and Greeks	42
4.4 Conclusion	47
5 The liturgical significance of <i>Vita Polycarpi</i>	47
5.1 Ordination	48
5.1.1 Polycarp's ordination as deacon	48
5.1.2 Polycarp's ordination as bishop	50
5.2 Gatherings on the Sabbath	55
5.3 Offerings	59
5.3.1 Offering at the Pascha	59
5.3.2 Offerings on the Lord's day	61
5.3.3 <i>Agape</i> offerings	68
5.3.4 Offering at the grave of Boukolos	74
6 The manuscript and its previous editors	84
7 Conclusions	85