

# Chronology of Aristotelian Commentators Prior to Aquinas

Compiled by Erik Norvelle, from various sources

Name	Dates	Place	School	Institution	Commented on:	Contribution / Notable for
Theophrastus	371 — c. 287 BC	Athens	Aristotelian	Lyceum		Critiqued and extended Aristotle
Andronicus of Rhodes	c. 60 BC	Rome	Aristotelian			Compiled major edition of Aristotle
Aspasius	c. 100-150	Athens	Aristotelian	Lyceum (?)	<b>NE</b> , PH, Ph, Mt, Cat.	First writer of commentary on Aristotle
Alexander of Aphrodisias	198 — 209	Athens	Aristotelian	Lyceum	<b>PA, Tp, Me, SS, Mt, Ph, Cat?</b> , Separated “active intellect” <b>GC, DA</b>	
Plotinus	c. 205 — 260/270	Alexandria / Rome	Neoplatonic (Founder)			Major Neoplatonic systematizer
Porphyry	c. 232-c. 305	Athens / Rome	Neoplatonic		<b>Cat</b>	Edited Enneads
Iamblichus	c. 245-c. 325	Antioch (Apameia)	Neoplatonic / Pythagorean	Syrian School	Cat	Mathematization of philosophy
Themistius	317 – 387	Constantinople	Neoplatonic		<b>PtA, Ph, DA, DC, Mt-A</b>	Sustained fundamental identity of Christianity and paganism
Plutarch of Athens	c. 350-430	Athens	Neoplatonic	Academy of Athens	DA	Reestablished Acad. as Neoplatonist
Syrianus	431/432 (head of school)	Athens	Neoplatonic	Academy of Athens	<b>Mt</b>	Disciple of Plutarch
Olympiodorus the Elder	380? – 450?	Alexandria	Aristotelian	School of Alexandria		Teacher of Proclus
Proclus	412 – 485	Alexandria / Athens	Neoplatonic	Academy of Athens		Mathematician, commentator on Plato
Ammonius Hermiae	434/45 – 517/26	Alexandria	Neoplatonic	School of Alexandria	<b>PH, Cat</b>	Disciple of Proclus
Damascius	458 – 538	Athens	Neoplatonic	Academy of Athens	DC	Last Scholarch of Academy
Boethius	480–524 / 525	Alexandria (?), Italy	Christian Neoplatonist		<b>Cat, PH</b>	Edition of Aristotle’s works (incomplete)
Simplicius	c. 490 – c. 560	Alexandria (trained) / Athens	Neoplatonic	Academy of Athens	<b>DC, Ph, Cat, DA, Mt</b>	Expelled by Justinian, one of last Academy members
John Philoponus	c. 490 – c. 570	Alexandria	Neoplatonist-Aristotelian	School of Alexandria	<b>Ph, PtA, PrA, Me, DA, GA, GC, Mt</b>	Notion of “impetus”
Olympiodorus the Younger	c. 495 – 570	Alexandria	Neoplatonic	School of Alexandria	<b>Me, Cat</b>	Last pagan Scholarch of Alexandria
Probus	c. 450 – 500 ?	Antioch	Neoplatonic / Aristotelian	Edessa / Nisibis	Org	Influential commentator in Syriac
Sergius the Syrian	d. 536	Ras al-'Ayn (Syria)	Neoplatonic / Aristotelian	School of Nisibis	<b>Cat</b>	
Paul the Persian	c. 567-580	Dershahr (Persia), Nisibis	Aristotelian	School of Nisibis	<b>Org, PH</b>	
“Elias” / “David”	c. 575 – 600?	Alexandria	Neoplatonist-Aristotelian	School of Alexandria	<b>Cat, PrA</b>	
Stephen of Alexandria	c. 575 – 600?	Athens / Alexandria	Neoplatonist-Aristotelian	School of Alexandria	<b>DA, PH, Rh</b>	
Severus Sebocht	d. 666-7	Kennesrin (Syria)	Aristotelian (Alexandrian)	School of Nisibis	PrA, PH	Intoduction of Indian numerals
Yuhanna ibn-Haylan	860 – 920	Harran / Baghdad	Aristotelian (Alexandrian)	School of Harran	GL	Teacher of Al-Farabi
Al-Kindi	c. 801 – 873	Baghdad	Aristotelian	House of Wisdom	<b>Mt, DA</b>	Major translator of Aristotle to Arabic
Al-Farabi	c. 872 -- 950	Baghdad, Aleppo, Cairo	Aristotelian, Neoplatonist		<b>GC, NE, Mt, DA†, PrA, PH, Cat</b>	
Avicenna (ibn Sina)	981-1037	Persia	Aristotelian (Avicennian)		<b>Poe, Mt, Ph, DA, HA, GA, PA, DC, GL, DA</b>	Founder of Avicennian Aristotelian school
Avenpace (Ibn Bājjah)	d. 1138	Zaragoza / Fez	Aristotelian		<b>Ph (partial), DA†, Me, GL†</b>	Planetary model, dynamics
Michael of Ephesus	1100? -- 1150?	Constantinople	Aristotelian, Neoplatonist	Circle of Anna Comnena	<b>NE, GA, MA, SE, Pol, PtA, PA, PN, Rh, Mt?</b>	
Eustratius	1100? -- 1150?	Constantinople	Aristotelian, Neoplatonist	Circle of Anna Comnena	<b>NE, PtA</b>	
Averroes (ibn Rushd)	1126 – 1198	Cordoba / Marrakech	Aristotelian (Averroism)		<b>Ph, Poe, DA, Tp, Me, Rh, Cat, PH, DC, GC, Mt, GA, PtA</b>	Founder of Avveroist Aristotelian school
Maimonides	1138 – 1204	Cordoba / Fostat (Egypt)	Aristotelian, Neoplatonist		See <i>Guide for the Perplexed</i>	Reconciliation of Aristotle and Mishnah

Cat = Categories, DC = De Caelo, DA = De Anima, GA = On Generation of Animals, GC = On Generation and Corruption, Gen = General commentary on Aristotle, GL = General commentary on Arist. logic

HA = History of Animals, MA = Motion of Animals, Me = Meteorology, Mt = Metaphysics, NE = Nichomachean Ethics, Org = Organon, PA = Parts of Animals, PH = Peri Hermeneias, PN = Parva Naturalia

Ph = Physics, Poe = Poetics, Pol = Politics, PrA = Prior Analytics, PtA = Posterior Analytics, Tp = Topics, SE = Sophistic Elenchi, SS = On Sense and the Sensible

**Bold/Italics** = Extant, † = indirect