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Abstract

Indications of colors are not present in all the *ekphraseis* of the Elder Philostratus' *Eikones*. Most of his
ekphraseis
are indeed totally deprived of such indications or mention one or more of the following colours : gold, black and white. Other tints only occur in a very small number of descriptions. This paper argues that the details for which the Elder Philostratus provides indications of color are far from being unsignificant : of course, several indications are given about the painters' representation of skin and eyes, but the other mentions of colors mainly concern objects that were frequently used as metaphors of poetry and of literary composition in Ancient literary criticism : curly hair, streams, rivers and the sea, gems, horse bridles, garlands, wings and weaved fabric.

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