Christian Studies 4. The life of Polycarp. An anonymous vita from third-century Smyrna Polycarp was a 2nd-century Christian bishop of Smyrna. According to the Martyrdom of Polycarp he died a martyr, bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed. The Life of Polycarp. An anonymous vita from third-century Smyrna. At the time of his martyrdom, Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna, confessed that he had been a. Yet, strange to say, our sources for the life of Polycarp are extremely meager. Parisiensis Graec., 1452 an anonymous Vita of Polycarp. Delehaye, consider it to be fictitious, a composition of the end of the fourth century. Sykes - - Antiquity The Life of Polycarp: An Anonymous Vita from Third-Century Smyrna Early Christian Studies, 4 by Alistair ed STEWART-SYKES at AbeBooks.co.uk - ISBN 10: