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[G. B. Bowersock, Greek sophists in the Roman Empire - suite]

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→ on trouve surtout 7^e siècle, de Crésos
 et les autres en l'honneur de Romulus polémos

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since what we regularly identify with the Second Sophistic already existed in embryo. Augustus' employment of Athenodorus of Tarsus and Pompeius Macer adumbrates the imperial posts of the sophists in Philostratus;¹ and similarly do the careers of Ti. Claudius Balbillus, *ad responsa graeca* and later prefect of Egypt, or Dionysius of Alexandria, *ab epistulis* to Nero and others.² The Roman empire became increasingly a Graeco-Roman unity: the role of literate easterners did not essentially change throughout that development which it helped to effect, but their role became far more prominent.

The relations between the sophists and the Roman emperors illustrate at every point the continuity of the diplomatic tradition of personal contact, advice, and intercession. One of the early representatives of the Second Sophistic movement (as such) was the Flavian sophist Scopelian of Smyrna, who is said to have gone on many embassies to the emperor: one of these concerned the celebrated vine edict of Domitian.³ Scopelian was dispatched to Rome as ambassador not merely of Smyrna but, according to Philostratus, of all Asia.⁴ One supposes that he was the chosen delegate of the Koinon, of which Scopelian, like his paternal ancestors, served as high priest.⁵ The embassy about the vines was attended by a great success. Scopelian was honoured by Domitian, and disciples followed him back to Asia. The oration to the emperor was still celebrated and read in the early third century.⁶

Toward the end of his life, at a time when Smyrna required an embassy on matters of great import, Scopelian found himself too old to travel, and the task fell to a new and young sophist, Polemo, who had never before served as envoy.⁷ Like Scopelian, Polemo came from a distinguished Ionian family which was well known not only to the citizens of Asia but also to emperors and Roman aristocrats.⁸ The choice of Polemo

¹ Athenodorus and Macer: Bowersock, *op. cit.*, ch. III.

² Balbillus: *PIR*², C 813 and H.-G. Pflaum, *Les Carrières procuratoriennes équestres* (1960) i, no. 15, pp. 34-41. Dionysius: *PIR*², D 103 and Pflaum, *op. cit.*, p. 684, n. 1.

³ *VS*, p. 520. Cf. Suet. *Dom.* 7. 2, 14. 2; Statius, *Silv.* iv. 3. 11 ff.

⁴ *VS*, p. 520.

⁵ *VS*, p. 515. Cf. A. Stein, *Epitymbion H. Swoboda dargebracht* (1927), p. 303.

⁶ Cf. the testimony of Philostratus, *VS*, p. 520.

⁷ *VS*, p. 521.

⁸ Bowersock, *op. cit.*, pp. 143-4.

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