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

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a golden chariot: Dio is speaking in Greek, and Trajan remarks to him, 'I know not what you are saying, but I love you as myself.'¹ The relationship implied by this story is credible anyhow.

Trajan was also a friend to Polemo, to whom he granted the privilege of free travel wherever he wished.² Hadrian, another admirer of Polemo, extended that privilege to the sophist's posterity and added others; his great-grandson, Hermocrates, is found fully equipped with privileges of all sorts.³ Hadrian's relations with Polemo are well illustrated by the emperor's own admission that his final statement on the affairs of the whole empire (a *breviarium totius imperii*, one supposes) was prepared with Polemo's advice.⁴ Nor is this the only indication of Hadrian's regard: his invitation to that sophist to deliver the oration at the consecration of the Olympieum at Athens was perhaps an embarrassing repudiation of the obvious person for the occasion, Herodes Atticus.⁵ Polemo's enemies at Smyrna had once tried to compromise him by allegations that he was spending on himself funds transmitted by the emperor for the good of the city, but Hadrian replied firmly with a letter declaring that Polemo had rendered him an account of the moneys which he had given the city.⁶ Not that the great sophist did not spend extravagantly for his own ostentation. He could be seen travelling along the roads of Asia in a chariot with silver bridles and an elaborate entourage of pack-animals, horses, slaves, and dogs.⁷ But Philostratus rightly observed that such a display gave lustre to a city no less than a fine agora or a splendid array of buildings, 'for not only does a city give a man renown, but a city itself acquires it from a man'.⁸

The story of Polemo's expulsion of the future Antoninus Pius from his house is well known.⁹ It happened when Pius was serving as proconsul of Asia, and it illustrates the sophist's pride and social eminence. Either with or without the efforts

¹ VS, p. 488.

² VS, p. 532.

³ VS, p. 532, cf. p. 611.

⁴ VS, p. 534: *ἐν ταῖς ὑπὲρ τῆς βασιλείας διαθήκαις*. Note also Polemo's travels with Hadrian: Appendix II below.

⁵ VS, p. 533. Cf. P. Graindor, *Un Milliardaire antique: Hérode Atticus et sa famille* (1930), pp. 45, 58.

⁶ VS, p. 533.

⁷ VS, p. 532.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ VS, p. 534. See above p. 23.



