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Auteur : Foucault, Michel

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of Hadrian to effect a reconciliation Polemo did not suffer at the accession of Pius.

But we happen to know that the young Marcus Aurelius was not much impressed by him in the year 143 (he set down his views in a letter to Fronto);¹ and Marcus' opinion may have something to do with another interesting personal relationship, namely that between himself and the rival of Polemo, Herodes Atticus. It is one of the oddities of the correspondence with Fronto that the teacher of Marcus had somehow not discovered (at least by 140) the cordial ties between his pupil and Herodes. For Herodes had once spent some time in the house of Calvisius Ruso, grandfather of Marcus.² Fronto was preparing, in the reign of Pius, to attack Herodes in court, and Marcus begged him to observe the friendship he felt for the great sophist.³ It is not very astonishing to find Fronto at a later date considering himself also a good friend of Herodes—so powerful was an expression of princely favour.⁴ The relations between Marcus and Herodes were not smooth throughout, but they endured. It is known that in his first appointments of professors at Athens Marcus took the advice of Herodes.⁵ One can deduce that over many decades the two men corresponded: some years after an awkward business in which Herodes had been obliged to defend himself before Marcus in Pannonia against charges made by his enemies at Athens, Herodes wrote to Marcus to ask why the emperor no longer corresponded with him. In the past Marcus had often written as many as three letters a day.⁶

Like Herodes, Aristides claimed to have been a regular correspondent with emperors,⁷ and as a result of the visit of

¹ Fronto, p. 29 van den Hout: *videtur mihi agricola strenuus, summa sollertia praeditus* . . .

² Fronto, p. 37 van den Hout. The date of this letter, normally given as the early 140s, is not altogether clear, depending on a trial in which Fronto was planning to speak ill of Herodes. See below, pp. 93–9. On P. Calvisius Tullus Ruso (*cos.* 109) see R. Syme, *Tacitus* (1958), ii. 793, item 7.

³ Fronto, loc. cit. (preceding note).

⁴ Fronto, p. 106 and p. 130 van den Hout: *Herodes summus nunc meus*.

⁵ *VS*, p. 566 (for chairs of Platonic, Stoic, Peripatetic, and Epicurean philosophy).

⁶ *VS*, p. 562. On the scene in Pannonia, *VS*, pp. 560–1 (see below p. 98).

⁷ Aristid. 42. 14 Keil. For Marcus and Aristides, cf. R. Pack, *CP* 42 (1947), 17 f.

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