

[AccueilRevenir à l'accueilCollectionBoite_028 | Ultimes papiers.CollectionBoite_028-6-chem | Galien. Item\[Bowersock. Greeck sophists and roman empire - suite\]](#)

[Bowersock. Greeck sophists and roman empire - suite]

Auteur : Foucault, Michel

Présentation de la fiche

Coteb028_f0639

SourceBoite_028-6-chem | Galien.

LangueFrançais

TypeFicheLecture

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

Références éditoriales

Éditeuréquipe FFL (projet ANR *Fiches de lecture de Michel Foucault*) ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

Droits

- Image : Avec l'autorisation des ayants droit de Michel Foucault. Tous droits réservés pour la réutilisation des images.
- Notice : équipe FFL ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle). Licence Creative Commons Attribution - Partage à l'Identique 3.0 (CC BY-SA 3.0 FR).

Notice créée par [équipe FFL](#) Notice créée le 22/03/2021 Dernière modification le 23/04/2021

important people in Rome, much as they attended the declamations of Hadrian of Tyre, or that Aristides should have been able to maintain his influential contacts without leaving the precinct of Asclepius at Pergamum. Yet we have, besides, abundant and often disagreeable evidence for an inordinate obsession with bodily ailments which has to be denominated hypochondria. 'I am one of those', said Aristides, 'who think that sickness is advantageous and who have acquired precious gems in return for which I would not accept all that which is considered happiness among men.'¹ And Aristides took exceptional pleasure in recording all his symptoms as well as all the peculiar treatments which the god prescribed for them.

Aristides' hypochondria was of an advanced kind. But a similar preoccupation pervades the correspondence between Fronto and Marcus Aurelius. Here, for example is an exchange between the two: Fronto to Marcus: 'I am anxious to know, my Lord, how you are keeping. I have been seized with pain in the neck. Farewell, my Lord. Greet your Lady.'² Marcus replies: 'I think I have got through the night without fever. I have taken food without repugnance, and am doing very nicely now. We shall see what the night brings. But, my master, by your late anxiety you can certainly gauge my feelings when I learnt that you had been seized with pain in the neck. Farewell, my most delightful of masters. My mother greets you.'³

One of the most astonishing letters in the whole collection of Fronto's correspondence is this, worthy of Aristides: Marcus to Fronto: 'This is how I have passed the last few days. My sister was seized suddenly with such pain in the privy parts that it was dreadful to see her. Moreover, my mother, in the flurry of the moment, inadvertently ran her side against a corner of the wall, causing us as well as herself great pain by the accident. For myself, when I went to lie down I came upon a scorpion in my bed; however, I was in time to kill it before lying down upon it. If you are better, that is a consolation. My mother feels easier now. Farewell, best and sweetest of masters. My lady greets you.'⁴ Letters of this kind are not rare

¹ Aristid. 23. 16 Keil.

² Fronto, *Epist.*, p. 75 van den Hout.

³ Ibid., pp. 75-6 van den Hout.

⁴ Ibid., pp. 74-5 van den Hout. Fronto translations by C. R. Haines.



