

Herodes Atticus

100/1/2 – 177 AD



Bust from his villa at Kephissia
Mid 2nd C. A.D.
National Archaeological Museum,
Athens

Full name: Lucius Vibullius Hipparchus Tiberius
Claudius Atticus Herodes
Father: Tiberius Claudius Atticus Herodes
Mother: Vibullia Alcia
Education: Combined Greek and Roman. Studied
literature with Theagenes of Cnidus and Munatius of
Tralles.
Wife: Appia Annia Atilia Regilla Caucidia Tertulla
Regilla (married in 140 AD)
Famous Sophist peers: Scopelian, Polemo, and Favorinus.
Career: - *Agoranomos* of Athens before AD 126/127
- *Achon* of Athens in AD 126/127
- *Quinqvevir Litibus Iudicandis*
- *Quaestor Principis*
- *Tribune*
- *Praetor*
- *Corrector* the Province of Asia in 134/5
- *Consul Ordinarius* 143
- (Turned down a proconsulship or a second
consulship)
- Tutor to Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus

Second Sophistic

The “most popular form of Greek-language artistic entertainment from the second half of the 1st century AD to the first half of the 3rd. In these performances a sophist

was often expected to deliver a speech, usually on a topic of Classical Greek history proposed by the audience, with only a brief period of time allowed for preparation. Much was expected of these performers by their knowledgeable audiences. Their grasp of Greek history had to be accurate, and they were also required to be Atticists, i.e. to use a Greek borrowed from Classical Greek writers, a Greek that in vocabulary, morphology, and syntax often departed from contemporary educated speech. Above all, they had to express their subject matter in striking and original diction.”¹

People and Terms To Know

The Second Sophistic

Philostratus – biographer of Herodes Atticus

Koine – the common Greek that had reincorporated into itself many of the linguistic features of Classical Greek that had disappeared in the Hellenistic and early Roman Periods

Peri Politeias – (On the Constitution) famous work attributed to Herodes Atticus

Praetorship – A position as the commander of an army or an elected magistrate

¹ Nigel Wilson, ed., *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece*, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2013), s.v. “Herodes Atticus.”

Consul – Served the highest political office, more of a figurehead/honor than an actual job

Website

<http://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/herod-atticus-philosopher-and-rhetor>

A description of the bust of Herodes Atticus found in the Louvre. Along with the picture of the bust is a description of where the bust was discovered as well as a short biography of Herodes Atticus and its comparison to other sculptures of its time.²

Journal Article

The Burial of Herodes Atticus: Elite Identity, Urban Society, and Public Memory in Roman Greece – Joseph L. Rife

This article covers the burial of Herodes Atticus. It goes into detail about what his intended burial plans were versus what actually took place. In order to do this, his family's ancestral home as well as the burials of his elite peers. Using Herodes' funeral as a case study, much can be learned about burial practices and even the life of the elite of his time.³

Questions:

After learning about the Second Sophistic, how do you think this school of thought affected philosophers and specifically Herodes Atticus?

How do you think Herodes Atticus' political power affected him?

How would being a consul specifically affected Herodes Atticus?

Based on the information discussed today as well as any prior knowledge, why do you think Herodes Atticus married so late in life?

Do you think this affected his relationship with his wife?

What can we learn about Herodes from his funeral?

Why do you think specific aspects were chosen to be a part of his funeral?

Did you find anything particularly interesting or peculiar about his funeral?

Bibliography

“Herod Atticus, Philosopher and Rhetor.” The Louvre. January 27, 2014. Accessed January 27, 2014. <http://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/herod-atticus-philosopher-and-rhetor>.

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² “Herod Atticus, Philosopher and Rhetor,” The Louvre, January 27, 2014, accessed January 27, 2014, <http://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/herod-atticus-philosopher-and-rhetor>.

³ Rife Joseph L., “The Burial of Herodes Atticus: Elite Identity, Urban Society, and Public Memory in Roman Greece”, *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 128 (2008): 92-127, accessed January 27, 2014, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40651725>.