

ERODE ATTICO

IMITATIO HADRIANI

Herodes Atticus: *Imitatio Hadriani*

International study conference

12th-13th December 2024

Villa Adriana – Tivoli

DATES

30TH APRIL 2024

Abstract submission deadline

30TH JUNE 2024

Notification of acceptance/rejection of abstracts

30TH JANUARY 2025

Full article submission deadline

30TH MARCH 2025

Notification of acceptance/rejection of full articles
for publication

Scientific committee

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Specify “Information about Conference – Herodes
Atticus” in the email subject line

VILLÆ

Herodes Atticus, vir et Graeca facundia et consulari honore praeditus, accersebat saepe, nos cum apud magistros Athenis essemus, in villas ei urbi proximas me et clarissimum virum Servilianum compluresque alios nostrates, qui Roma in Graeciam ad capiendum ingenii cultum concesserant.

2 “While we were students at Athens, Herodes Atticus, a man of consular rank and of true Grecian eloquence, often invited me to his country houses near that city, in company with the honourable Servilianus and several others of our countrymen who had withdrawn from Rome to Greece in quest of culture.”

The incipit of this reminiscence passed on by Aulo Gellio (N.A., I, 2-1) sums up his interests: philosopher of true Grecian eloquence and sensitive patron of the arts and architecture.

In the nineteenth century, the figure of Herodes Atticus was well described by Ferdinand Gregorovius as follows: “Even more attractive and instructive for the cultural life of that age is the appearance of Herodes Atticus, the famous patron of the city of Athens, who did far more for it than the most benevolent emperors. This man combined in himself, as is seldom the case, the riches of Croesus with as many gifts from the muses of Attica as it was possible in times like those.”

A figure whose interests recall those of Hadrian, to such an extent that he intensively gravitates towards the emperor’s circle, and Hadrian will include him among Marcus Aurelius’ preceptors, as indicated in *Historia Augusta* (M.A., I, 2-3) *usus praeterea grammaticis, Graeco Alexandro Cotiaensi, Latinis Trosio Apro et Pollione et Eutybio Proculo Siccensi. oratoribus usus est Graecis Aninio Macro, Caninio Celere et Herode Attico, Latino Frontone Cornelio. Sed multum ex his Frontoni detulit, cui et statuam in senatu petiit, e come, poco più avanti, direttamente confermato* (M.A., I, 3-1): *tantum autem studium in eo philosophiae fuit ut adscitus iam in imperatoriam tamen ad domum Apollonii discendi causa veniret.*

The considerable attention towards the arts and architecture, evident from the clear inspiration that his country houses take from Villa Adriana's models, when combined with the relationships, also friendship-like, between Hadrian and Herodes Atticus, is the reason why the Autonomous Institute of Villa Adriana e Villa d'Este – Villae (Ministry of Culture) has promoted an international conference about this fascinating figure.

Against this background, the study days propose an interdisciplinary approach, the most suitable to capture the different interests and the multi-faceted experience of this man of letters and philosopher, politician and patron, master and art and architecture lover.

The literary sources and the several material traces of the public works that he funded, disseminated over Minor Asia, Greece, and Rome, depict the profile of a profoundly ambitious man aspiring to immortal fame, heroic-like, on par with figures of imperial rank.

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The Conference offers an opportunity for discussion for scholars of different disciplines to delineate the profile of a man with a brilliant and curious personality, mirroring a broader historical context, and his legacy across centuries.

Thematic itineraries proposed:

Herodes Atticus: cultural aspects, personality

Herodes Atticus: artistic patronage

Herodes Atticus and Hadrian

INFO:

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The conference is open to the public upon written communication.

Participation as a speaker does not include refunds and is bound by the abstract acceptance. Abstracts must be around 300 words and accompanied by a descriptive note about the author/authors (bio), including an indication of the relevant institution, title, email address, and telephone number.

The abstract acceptance will involve a double-blind peer review; in this regard, to ensure anonymity during the selection process, no mention of oneself or research and specific studies clearly connected to oneself should be made in the abstracts.

The abstract acceptance, communicated by the organisation office, will allow the presentation at the conference. Another double-blind peer review will also be organised at a later stage for the acceptance of full articles for publication.