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PRIVATE MALE PORTRAITS OF THE GREEK ANTONINE AGE: SEEKING  
THE MODELS

The Greek private male portraits of the Antonine age are fairly heavily influenced by imperial iconography, although not to the point of copying a specific portrait type. Good examples are the private portraits of young men that display the influence of youthful portrait types of Marcus Aurelius, Lucius Verus and Commodus, but usually combining features of two different types and bearing some general facial resemblance to their model. The portraits of bearded men, on the other hand, are less directly derivative, the influence of imperial portraiture often being confined to a general likeness in the shape of hair, beard and features.

The model for such portraits is usually sought generally in older portraits of sages. These portraits, however, belong to types that are seen in depictions of bearded men in funerary reliefs and in anonymous portraits of the 4th century BC. This paper explores the extent to which the types of private male portraits of the Antonine age (portraits of bearded men, bald or with hair long, short or pulled back) exist in earlier eras and how closely they are related to classical models.