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Athenagoras of Ephesus

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Summary :

Athenagoras was a tyrant of the Archaic period, who ruled on Ephesus. Apart from sending Hipponax to exile, nothing else related to his activity is known. Moreover, the years of his reign have been estimated by investigating several written sources and inscriptions.

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

6th century BC-Ephesus

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH

6th century BC-Ephesus

MAIN ROLE

Tyrant

1. Activity

Athenagoras was one of the numerous [tyrants](#) who ruled [Ephesus](#) during the Archaic period.¹ According to Suidas, [Hipponax](#) went into exile to [Clazomenae](#) because of the tyranny of Athenagoras and Kommas. Nothing more is known besides this brief allusion. Hipponax' akme dates back to 540/39 BC according to [Pliny](#) and to the *Marmor Parium*, and we know from Aelian that Pindaros, the son of Melas was still exercising tyranny in Ephesus at the beginning of [Croesus'](#) reign (561/0 BC).² Consequently, Athenagoras' rule must be dated some time between the middle of the century and the [Ionian Revolt](#) (499 B.C.). We do not know the reason of Athenagoras' and Kommas' hatred for Hipponax.

1. Cf. Frère, J., "Politique et religion à Ephèse entre 550 et 450", *Kernos* 9 (1996), σελ. 87-94.

2. Souda, s.v. Hipponax. Pliny, *HN* XXXVI 11. *Marmor Parium*, *FGrHist* 239 A 42. Aelianus, *VH* III 26.

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SOURCES

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