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STATUES OF PRIVATE CITIZENS IN THEATRES IN CITIES IN THE  
EASTERN PART OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE SECOND CENTURY AD

Placing private statues in theatres is attested in the Roman Empire from the days of Augustus to Late Antiquity. In the theatres of the eastern provinces the number of such statues increases sharply in the middle of the 2nd century AD, a phenomenon that may have to do with the blossoming of patronage in the East in that period. The persons commemorated by these statues, who for the most part are imperial and local officials, priests, men of letters and actors, are usually honoured in this way for their benefactions to the city and society, while in a few instances the honour is associated with specific benefactions to the world of the theatre.