

**Boris Dreyer**

**City elites and the administration of the Attalid kingdom since Apameia**

For events following the period after 146 B.C., also and especially with regard to the Greek cities of Asia Minor until the province of Asia was established around 126, we must rely on other, primarily epigraphic sources. The same applies for the structure of the Attalid kingdom in Asia Minor. Research activities in this connection are currently focused on the relationship of the Greek cities, and their political and social elites, to the administration and central government of the kingdom. This is also the object of my own research, roughly outlined below.

Fortunately, the amount of epigraphical source material for the period between 188 and 133 B.C. has increased significantly over the past few years. These provide additional detail about efforts to integrate non-Greek sections of the population, about the structure of command and control, and about the geographical extension of the provinces, for example. More is also learned about the policies and rôle of the small cities at the various administrative levels of the kingdom, from the royal farmers, through the provincial capitals to the centers of court activity. What is particularly striking, however, is the sheer density of new findings from the time of the crisis and decline of the Attalid Kingdom, especially after the death of the last childless king: These epigraphical findings shed light not only on the Aristonikos campaign, but also on the political thinking of the Greek cities, of the usurper Aristonikos and — last but not least — of the Romans, in particular the Senate, until establishment of the province under the leadership of Aquilius (129-126 B.C.)

These new sources thus provide us with new details about the structure of government and public administration in the "old" central areas of the kingdom, as well as in regions gained in the peace of 188. We are also given new information about the position of the non-autonomous cities and their political and social elites. With sophisticated methodological procedures it is possible to derive a relatively complex picture, provided the argumentation is done conclusively: In addition to the actual sources dating from the period after the peace of Apamea and before the death of Attalos III, one can also draw conclusions about conditions during the period of the Attalid predecessors, the Seleucids, and their heirs, the Romans, if the thesis of continuity — already proven in many respects — is accepted. A next step (in future research) will be to compare the results of these analyses with current knowledge about the structure of government and the rôle of cities in other Macedonian/Hellenistic kingdoms, especially in Macedonia and Egypt, in order to complete the picture.