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The Sophistic Movement

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Introduction

"I know few characters in history who have been so hardly deal
called Sophists", says an indignant George Grote in his monument
(Grote, 1872, p. 43). The sophists he refers to are an influential
intellectuals, and authors of fifth-century (BCE) Greece; the "so-
protest against what Grote argues is an unfairly pejorative label.
with the words for wisdom (*sophia*) and wise man (*sophos*), and
simply an expert or teacher, *sophistēs* had begun to take on conn
tual deviousness already in the fifth century – a trend powerfully re
largely unsympathetic portrayal (cf. Guthrie, 1969, pp. 27–34).
"the sophists" will simply pick out a group of fifth-century teac
who were so labeled in antiquity, and whose practices and ideas
important ways; they include Protagoras, Gorgias, Hippias, Prodic
and, in some respects, Socrates.[1] Since our concern is with thei
will also include the unidentifiable authors of some kindred ano
Dissoi Logoi, the *Anonymus Iamblichi*); and light can also be shed or
passages in other contemporary authors such as Democritus, Euripid

In fact, there may be little point in trying to separate off sophis
broader intellectual currents of their era – the "Fifth-Century Enl
has suggestively been called. Perhaps that is the hallmark of a suc