

This work is an inquiry of the original traces of negative and positive criticism of the sophists. Through the interpretation of the relevant passages in selected works of Plato, Aristotle and Hegel we will try to seize the main reasons that have led these thinkers to the rejection of sophistry, or for its appreciation. Thence, there will not be taken into account the Sophists as a philosophical phenomenon, but what Plato, Aristotle and Hegel say about them. At the same time we give up all criticism and evaluation, because we do not want to seek advantages and disadvantages of these opinions; we just want to know what they are. The first chapter includes four interpretations of Plato's dialogues *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, *Sophist* and *Euthydemus*. In the second chapter we will try through the Aristotle's reading of the first fifteen chapters of his writings *Sophistical Refutations* seize the reasons for his adverse assessment of the Sophists. The third chapter examines Hegel's appreciation of sophistry, which results from his conception of the history of philosophy as a necessary process of evolution in his *Lectures on the History of Philosophy*. In the conclusion the results of inquiry and overall summary will be presented.