He is one of the first early text scholars and he pro-
duced the first known Gospel harmony, the DIATESSARON,
about 150 AD. Further discovereies of this work in
early form have pretty well put the axe to the older
form criticism that made John's Gospel a late product
of the early church but those who doubted the authenti-
city of the Gospel in the first place have simply
moved to other rational means of accounting for its
uniqueness and service. Tatian, in the tradition of
Martyr, put forth an apologetic entitled A DISCOURSE
WITH THE GREEK in which he attempted to show to the
Greek skeptics what Martyr had sought to demonstrate
to the Jews.

Tatian's ministry and effectiveness were somewhat
harmed when, in time, he imbibed some of the Christian-
Gnostic synthesis ideals. He apparently had a
restless mind coupled with a sense of curiosity and
perhaps some gullibility. By these defects he was led
into the Gnostic labyrinth and never really got out...
thus diminishing his service as a father.

Melito of Sardis (180)

          A student of the Old TEstament,
Melito is best remembered for his canonical work re-
garding the Old Testament and the resultant knowledge
we have as to how the church viewed the Old Testament
Scriptures. Regarding ecclesiastical apologetics, we
are impressed by his absolute independence and lack of
subservience to any other bishop, most notably the
Bishop of Rome. He shows no lack of respect, that is,
just no order of descending authority.

Arnobius (300 AD)

          His chief work is a large apolo-
getic work TO THE HEATHEN which was a somewhat blunt
and well-developed treatise to show Christian posture
on various theological matters. Arnobius who wrote
this work must be kept distinct from Arnobius the
Junior, about two centuries later. The "senior" was
enthusiastic for his faith and ideas. Occasionally he
wrote more rapidly than he thought--my opinion--
meaning that he does not always show sound positions
in his zeal to refute. A tough work to read, repeti-
tive, long..but touching most bases. Not recommended
for light reading!