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0521542138 - The Athenian Institution of the Khoregia: The Chorus, the City and the Stage

Peter Wilson

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The Athenian Institution of the *Khoregia*

This book is the first major study of the means by which the classical Athenians organised and funded their many festival choruses. It explores the mechanics of the institution by which a minority of rich citizens were required to arrange and pay for a festival chorus, including choruses for tragic and comic drama, and situates this duty within the range of occasions for élite leadership in Athens' elaborate festival calendar. Peter Wilson goes on to show the importance of the *khoregia* to our understanding of the workings of Athenian democracy itself, and to demonstrate the degree to which the institution was itself a highly performative occasion, an opportunity for élite display in the democratic environment. The post-classical history of the *khoregia* and its appearance in a wide range of other Greek communities are also examined.

PETER WILSON is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick.

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For my parents

τί φίλτερον κεδνῶν τοκέων ἀγαθοῖς;

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Preface

This book began as part of a Cambridge Ph.D., and developed into its very different current form at the University of Warwick, after two years of productively distracting teaching at University College, Oxford. Pembroke College Cambridge assisted my initial research and New Hall allowed me to further it in a sympathetic environment by electing me to a Junior Research Fellowship. My colleagues at Warwick have been supportive in its final stages.

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Thanks of a different sort go to Chris Clark, James Mackenzie and, in particular, Vanessa Smith; and above all to my parents, to whom I dedicate this book with much love.

Abbreviations

- ARV² J. D. Beazley, *Attic Red-Figure Vase-Painters*, 2nd edn, Oxford 1963.
- D–K *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*, H. Diels and W. Kranz, 7th edn, 3 vols., Berlin 1951–4.
- DTA *Defixionum Tabellae*, ed. A. Audolent, Paris 1904.
- FGrH F. Jacoby (ed.), *Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*, Berlin/Leiden 1923–58.
- IEG *Iambi et Elegi Graeci*, 2 vols., ed. M. L. West, Oxford 1971.
- IG *Inscriptiones Graecae*, Berlin, 1913– .
- IK *Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien*, Bonn 1972– .
- IvO *Inschriften von Olympia*, eds. W. Dittenberger and K. Purgold, Bonn 1896.
- K–A R. Kassel and C. Austin, *Poetae Comici Graeci*, Berlin/New York 1983– .
- LGNP *A Lexicon of Greek Personal Names*, eds. P. Fraser, E. Matthews, M. Osborne, S. Byrne, Oxford 1987– .
- M–L R. Meiggs and D. Lewis, *A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the end of the Fifth Century B.C.*, Oxford 1969.
- MMC³ T. B. L. Webster, *Monuments Illustrating Old and Middle Comedy*, 3rd edn, rev. J. Green, *BICS Supp.* 39, London 1978.
- MTS² T. B. L. Webster, *Monuments Illustrating Tragedy and Satyr Play*, 2nd edn, *BICS Supp.* 20, London 1967.
- Paralip. J. D. Beazley, *Paralipomena: Additions to Attic Black-figure Vase-Painters and to Attic Red-figure Vase Painters*, 2nd edn, Oxford 1971.
- PMG *Poetae Melici Graeci*, ed. D. L. Page, Oxford, 1962.
- PMGF *Poetarum Melicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*, vol. 1, ed. M. Davies, Oxford 1991.
- RVApSuppl. II A. D. Trendall and A. Cambitoglou, *The Red-Figured Vases of Apulia*, Supplement II (*BICS Suppl.* no. 60, 1991, publ. 1992).
- SGD D. Jordan, 'A Survey of Greek Defixiones Not Included in the Special Corpora', *GRBS* 26 (1985) 151–97.
- Sn–M *Bacchylidis carmina cum fragmentis*, post B. Snell, ed. H. Maehler, Stuttgart/Leipzig 1992.
- TrGF 1 *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*, vol. 1: *Didascaliae Tragicae, Catalogi Tragicorum et Tragoediarum Testimonia et Fragmenta Tragicorum Minorum*, ed. B. Snell, corrected and augmented R. Kannicht, Göttingen 1986.

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- TrGF 2* *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*, vol. 2: *Fragmenta Adespota, Testimonia Volumini 1 Addenda, Indices ad Volumina 1 et 2*, eds. R. Kannicht and B. Snell, Göttingen 1981.
- TrGF 3* *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*, vol. 3: *Aeschylus*, ed. S. Radt, Göttingen 1985.
- TrGF 4* *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*, vol. 4: *Sophocles*, ed. S. Radt, Göttingen 1977.