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The Old Oligarch

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# The Old Oligarch

Pseudo-Xenophon's *Constitution of the Athenians*

Fourth Edition

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Introduction, translation and commentary by

**ROBIN OSBORNE**

*University of Cambridge*



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### Preface to the Third Edition

In the 13 years since the publication of the Second Edition, Ps-Xenophon's *Constitution of the Athenians* has received unprecedented attention from scholars writing in English, with not one but two editions and commentaries. Vivienne Gray's *Xenophon On Government*, in the *Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics* series (Cambridge, 2007), includes a Greek text and commentary on the '*Respublica Atheniensium*' alongside two works by Xenophon himself, the *Hiero* and the *Constitution of the Spartans*. J. L. Marr and P. J. Rhodes' *The 'Old Oligarch': the Constitution of the Athenians attributed to Xenophon* (Oxford, 2008), in the Aris and Phillips Classical Texts series, offers Greek text, translation, and extensive commentary of more than 100 pages. On a similar scale to Marr and Rhodes' edition is the text, German translation and commentary of G. Weber, *Pseudo-Xenophon: Die Verfassung der Athener* (Darmstadt, 2010).

In addition to on-going discussion by historians in the context of studies of classical Athens and of Greek political thought, the text has been the subject of a collection of articles: C. Bearzot, F. Landucci and L. Prandi eds. *L' Athenaion politeia revisitata: Il punto su Pseudo-Senofonte* (Milan, 2011).

In revising the second edition, I have made minor changes to correct or improve the translation, and have variously supplemented the introduction and commentary, to reflect my own changing understanding of the text in the light of recent scholarship, and the bibliography, to give a fuller guide to the scholarship. In addition to those thanked in the Preface to the Second Edition, I am grateful to Paul Cartledge, for alerting me to various misprints, to Franco Basso for extensive and on-going discussion of the problems of this fascinating text, and to Melvin Cooley for careful proof-reading.

August 2017

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