

Athenian law threatening the Areopagus in the event of a plot against the democracy, 337/6

A *stèle* found (not in its original location but in a third-century fill) in the north-east of the Athenian Agora, now in the Agora museum. At the top is a relief interpreted as showing Demos being crowned by Demokratia. Phot. e.g. *Hesp.* xxi 1952, pls. 89–90; *Agonia*, xiv, pl. 53–4; Meyer, Taf. 30 A 97, and Lawton, pl. 20 no. 38, show the relief and ll. 1–2; our Pl. 7.

Attic-Ionic, with the old σ for $\sigma\upsilon$ in l. 19; *stichtedam* 36 (35 letters in l. 15).

ἐπὶ Φρυγίου ἄρχοντος· ἐπὶ τῆς Λεωντίδος ἐν-
 5 ἀτης πρυτανείας· ἢ Χαίρεστρατος Ἀμεινίου
 Ἀχαρνέως ἐγραμμάτευεν· τῶν προέδρων ἐπεψή-
 φισεν Μενέστρατος Αἰζωνεύς. Εὐκράτης Ἀρισ-
 10 τότημου Πειραιεύς εἶπεν· ἀγαθὴ τύχη τοῦ δ-
 ἴμου τοῦ Ἀθηναίων, δεδόχθαι τοῖς νομοθέται-
 σ· ἐάν τις ἐπαναστήι τῶι δήμῳ ἐπὶ τυραννίδι
 ἢ τὴν τυραννίδα συνκαταστήσῃ ἢ τὸν δῆμον τ-
 15 ὄν Ἀθηναίων ἢ τὴν δημοκρατίαν τὴν Ἀθήρησιν
 καταλύσῃ, ὅς ἂν τὸν τούτων τι ποιήσαντα ἀπο-
 κ(τ)εῖνη ὅσιος ἔστω. μὴ ἐξέιναι δὲ τῶν βουλευ-
 τῶν τῶν τῆς Βουλῆς τῆς ἐξ Ἀρείου Πάγου καταλ-
 20 ελυμένου τοῦ δήμου ἢ τῆς δημοκρατίας τῆς Ἀθ-
 ῆνησιν ἀνέναι εἰς Ἄρειον Πάγον μηδὲ συνκα-
 15 θίξεν ἐν τῶι συνεδρίῳ μηδὲ βουλευέων μη-
 δὲ περὶ ἑνός· ἐὰν δὲ τις τοῦ δήμου ἢ τῆς δημοκρ-
 20 ατίας καταλελυμένων τῶν Ἀθήρησιν ἀνίηι τῶ-
 ν βουλευτῶν τῶν ἐξ Ἀρείου Πάγου εἰς Ἄρειον Π-
 άγον ἢ συνκαθίξῃ ἐν τῶι συνεδρίῳ ἢ βολεύη-
 25 τὸ ἐξ ἐκείνου, καὶ ἡ οὐσία δημοσία ἔστω αὐτοῦ
 καὶ τῆς Θεοῦ τὸ ἐπιδέκατον· ἀναγράφαι δὲ τὸν-
 δε τὸν νόμον ἐν στήλαις λιθναῖς δυοῖν τὸν γ-
 30 ραμματεῖα τῆς βουλῆς καὶ στήσαι τῆμ· μὲν ἐπὶ τ-
 25 ῆς εἰσόδου τῆς εἰς Ἄρειον Πάγον τῆς εἰς τὸ βο-
 υλευτήριον εἰσόντι, τὴν δὲ ἐν τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ-
 35 ι· εἰς δὲ τὴν ἀναγραφὴν τῶν στήλων τὸν ταμίαν
 δοῦναι τοῦ δήμου : ΔΔ : δραχμῶν ἐκ τῶν κατὰ ψη-
 φίσματα ἀναλισκομένων τῶι δήμῳ. vacat

11 The stone has *KIEINH.* 13 S. D. Lambert: *EΛΥΓΓΕΝΟΥ* edd.

There are also places where the cross-stroke of *A* has been omitted.

Hesp. xxi 1952, 355–9 no. 5; *SEG* xii 87; Pouilloux, *Chios*, 32; Schwenk 6; *Agona*, xvi 73*. Trans. Harding 101. See also M. Ostwald, *TAPA* lxxxvi 1955, 103–28; R. Sealey, *AJP* lxxxix 1958, 71–3 = his *Essays*, 183–5; Wallace, *The Areopagos Council*, 175–84; P. J. Rhodes in Eder (ed.), *Die altathensische Demokratie im 4. Jahrhundert v. Chr.*, 303–19 at 311–14.

In the archonship of Phrynichus [337/6]; in the ninth pry-
 tany, of Leontis; to which Chaerestratus son of Ameinias
 of Acharnae was secretary; of the *proedroi* Menestratus of
 Aexone was putting to the vote. Eucrates son of Aristotimus
 of Piraeus proposed:

5 For the good fortune of the people of Athens, be it resolved
 by the *nomothetai*.

7 If any one rises up against the people for a tyranny or joins
 in setting up the tyranny or overthrows the people of Athens
 or the democracy at Athens, whoever kills the man who has
 done any of these things shall be undefined.

11 And it shall not be permitted to any of the councillors of the
 Council of the Areopagus, if the people or the democracy
 at Athens is overthrown, to go up to the Areopagus or to
 sit together in the meeting (*synedrion*) or to deliberate about
 anything at all; and if when the people or the democracy at
 Athens has been overthrown any of the councillors of the
 Areopagus does go up to the Areopagus or sit together in
 the meeting or deliberate about anything, he shall be with-
 out rights (*aitimos*), both himself and his descendants, and
 his property shall be made public and the tithe given to the
 Goddess.

22 This law shall be written up on two stone *stelai* by the
 secretary of the council, and placed one at the entrance to
 the Areopagus as you enter the council-house (*bouleuterion*)
 and the other in the assembly; for the writing-up of the *stelai*
 the treasurer of the people shall give 20 drachmas from the
 people's fund for expenditure on decrees.