

The Law of Periandros
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φιλοτιμία

1) Isaios, *On the Estate of Apollodoros* (Is. 7.38)

Ὁ μὲν γὰρ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ τὰς τε ἄλλας ἀπάσας λητουργίας λελητούργηκε καὶ τριηραρχῶν τὸν πάντα χρόνον διετέλεσεν, οὐκ ἐκ συμμορίας τὴν ναῦν παρασκευαζόμενος ὥσπερ οἱ νῦν, ἀλλ' ἐκ τῶν αὐτοῦ δαπανῶν, οὐδὲ δεύτερος αὐτὸς ὄν, ἀλλὰ κατὰ μόνας, οὐδὲ δύο ἔτη διαλιπών, ἀλλὰ συνεχῶς, οὐδ' ἀφοσιούμενος, ἀλλ' ὡς οἶόν τ' ἄριστα [παρασκευαζόμενος].

For his (sc. Apollodoros) father performed each other liturgy while he continuously served as trierarch, *not outfitting the ship from the contributions of a symmory like they do now*, but from his own resources. He did not even rely upon a second but served alone --and continuously-- as he did not take the two year hiatus and he did not skimp, but outfitted the ship as well as possible.

2) Demosthenes, *Against Meidias* (Dem. 21.154)

οὗτος, ὃ ἄνδρες Ἀθηναῖοι, γεγυῶς ἔτη περὶ πεντήκοντ' ἴσως ἢ μικρόν ἔλαττον οὐδὲν ἐμοῦ πλείους λητουργίας ὑμῖν λελητούργηκεν, ὃς δύο καὶ τριάκοντ' ἔτη γέγονα. κἀγὼ μὲν κατ' ἐκείνους τοὺς χρόνους ἐτριηράρχουν, εὐθύς ἐκ παίδων ἐξελθών, ὅτε σύνδου' ἡμεν οἱ τριηραρχοὶ καὶ τὰναλώματα πάντ' ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων [οἴκων] καὶ τὰς ναῦς ἐπληρούμεθ' αὐτοί· οὗτος δέ, ὅτε μὲν κατὰ ταύτην τὴν ἡλικίαν ἦν ἦν ἐγὼ νῦν, οὐδέπω λητουργεῖν ἤρχετο, τηνικαῦτα δὲ τοῦ πράγματος ἤπται, ὅτε πρῶτον μὲν διακοσίους καὶ χιλίους πεποιήκατε συντελεῖς ὑμεῖς. . .

This guy [Meidias], Athenians, who is about 50, has performed no more liturgies than I who is 32. And I served as trierarch right out of childhood, back when we served in pairs and we met all the expenses from our private resources and we ourselves were responsible for finding a crew. He only put his hand to the business after you made 1200 men contributors [*synteleis*].

Gaming the System?

3) Demosthenes, *Against Meidias* (Dem. 21.155)

οὗτος δέ, ὅτε μὲν κατὰ ταύτην τὴν ἡλικίαν ἦν ἢν ἐγὼ νῦν, οὐδέπω λητουργεῖν ἤρχετο, τῆνικαὐτὰ δὲ τοῦ πράγματος ἤπται, ὅτε πρῶτον μὲν διακοσίους καὶ χιλίους πεποιήκατε συντελεῖς ὑμεῖς, παρ' ὧν εἰσπραττόμενοι τάλαντον ταλάντου μισθοῦσι τὰς τριηραρχίας οὗτοι, εἶτα πληρώμαθ' ἡ πόλις παρέχει καὶ σκευὴ δίδωσιν, ὥστ' αὐτῶν ἐνίοις τῇ ἀληθείᾳ τὸ μηδὲν ἀναλώσασθαι καὶ δοκεῖν ληλητοργηκέναι καὶ τῶν ἄλλων λητουργιῶν ἀτελεῖς γεγενῆσθαι περίεστιν.

He has only begun to serve as a [naval] liturgist at a time when you have made 1200 men contributors (συντελεῖς), from whom these men collect a talent and then hire out their trierarchy at a talent, and on top of it the City supplies the crews and provides the equipment so that some of them actually spend nothing while seeming to have done their duty and so they also become exempt from other liturgies.

4) Demosthenes, *On the Crown* (Dem 18.104)

οὐδὲ γὰρ τριηράρχους ἔτ' ὠνόμαζον ἑαυτούς, ἀλλὰ συντελεῖς. ὥστε δὴ ταῦτα λυθῆναι καὶ μὴ τὰ δίκαια ποιεῖν ἀναγκασθῆναι. . .

For they don't even call themselves trierarchs any longer, but 'contributors' so that they are freed of their obligations and are not compelled to do their fair share.

A Smattering of Risks

4) Aristophanes, *Knights* 912-18

ἐγὼ σε ποιήσω τριηραρχεῖν, ἀναλίσκοντα τῶν σαυτοῦ, παλαιὰν ναῦν ἔχοντ', εἰς ἣν ἀναλῶν οὐκ ἐφέξις οὐδὲ ναυπηγούμενος· διαμηχανήσομαί θ' ὅπως ἂν ἰστίον σαπρὸν λάβῃς.

I will appoint you a trierarch and you'll spend your own money --it will be a sinkhole in which you'll never stop pouring money and I'll fix it that you get a rotten sail.

5) [Demosthenes] *Against Polykles* ([Dem]50.14)

Ἐπειδὴ τοίνυν εἰς Ἑλλάσποντον ἦλθομεν, καὶ ὁ τε χρόνος
ἐξεληλύθει μοι τῆς τριηραρχίας, καὶ μισθὸς οὐκ ἀπεδόθη τοῖς
στρατιώταις ἀλλ' ἢ δυοῖν μηνοῖν, ἕτερός τε στρατηγὸς ἦκεν
Τιμόμαχος, καὶ οὗτος διαδόχους οὐκ ἄγων
ἐπὶ τὰς ναῦς, ἀθυμήσαντές μοι πολλοὶ τοῦ πληρώματος ὄχοντο
ἀπολιπόντες τὴν ναῦν, οἱ μὲν εἰς τὴν ἡπειρον στρατευσόμενοι, οἱ
δὲ εἰς τὰς Θασίων καὶ Μαρωνιτῶν ναῦς, μισθῷ μεγάλῳ
πεισθέντες καὶ ἀργύριον πολὺ προλαβόντες καὶ ὑπὸ πολλῶν αὐ
τῷ λόγῳ ἐξηπατημένοι, καὶ τὰ μὲν παρ' ἐμοῦ ἐξαναηλωμένα ἤδη
ὀρώντες, τὰ δὲ τῆς πόλεως

When we came to the Hellespont and my trierarchy had expired while the crew had been given only two months pay. Another commander, Timamachos, arrived without new trierarchs. A majority of my crew lost all heart and deserted, some for mercenary service along the coast, others, promised better wages and duped by false promises, to the Thasian and Maronean fleet. . .

Misthosis

6) [Demosthenes], 51.8-9 (On the Trierarchic Crown)

ὅτε γὰρ τη ναυμαχία τη πρὸς Ἀλέξανδρον ἐνικήθητε, τότε των
τριηράρχων τοὺς μεμισθωκότας τὰς τριηραρχίας αἰτιωτάτους του
γεγενημένου νομίζοντες παρεδώκατ' εἰς τὸ δεσμοτήριον,
καταχειροτονήσαντες προδεδωκέναι τὰς ναυς καὶ λελοιπέναι τὴν
τάξιν.

For, when you were beaten in the sea battle against Alexander,¹ you thought that the trierarchs who had hired out their trierarchies most to blame for what had happened, and you handed them over for imprisonment, after you had convicted them of betraying the fleet and abandoning their post.

7) Demosthenes 21.163 (Against Meidias)

οὐκ ἀνέβαιν' ἐπὶ τὴν ναῦν ἣν ἐπέδωκεν, ἀλλὰ τὸν μέτοικον ἐξέπεμψε τὸν
Αἰγύπτιον, Πάμφιλον. . .

He (Meidias) never boarded the ship that he donated, but he dispatched the Egyptian metic, Pamphilos. . .