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### The *Nomophylakes* and the Plynteria Procession

Philochorus *FGrHist* 328 F64b *Lex. Cantabr.* p.351, 10N:

Νομοφύλακες· ἕτεροί εἰσι τῶν θεσμοθετῶν, ὡς Φιλόχορος ἐν τῇ ζ. οἱ μὲν γὰρ ἄρχοντες ἀνέβαινον εἰς Ἄρειον πάγον ἐστεφανωμένοι, οἱ δὲ νομοφύλακες στρόφια λευκὰ ἔχοντες καὶ <έν> ταῖς θεαῖς ἐναντίον <τῶν ἐννέα> ἀρχόντων ἐκαθέζοντο, καὶ τὴν πομπὴν ἔπεμπον τῇ Παλλάδι. τὰς δὲ ἀρχὰς ἠνάγκαζον τοῖς νόμοις χρῆσθαι, καὶ ἐν τῇ βουλῇ μετὰ τῶν προέδρων ἐκάθηντο, κωλύοντες τὰ ἀσύμφορα τῇ πόλει πράττειν. ἑπτὰ δὲ ἦσαν καὶ κατέστησαν, ὡς Φιλόχορος, ὅτε Ἐφιάλτης μόνον κατέλιπε τῇ ἐξ Ἄρειου πάγου βουλῇ τὰ ὑπὲρ τοῦ σώματος.

*Nomophylakes*: these are different from the *thesmothetai*, as Philochorus says in his seventh book. For the archons went to the Areopagus wearing garlands, while the *nomophylakes* having white headbands sat in the theater opposite the nine archons, and sent the procession for Pallas. They compelled the authorities to live under the laws, and in the Boule they sat with the *proedroi* (chairmen), preventing anything inexpedient for the *polis* from being accomplished. They were seven and they were instituted, according to Philochorus, when Ephialtes left only to the Areopagus council its jurisdiction over homicide cases.

Pollux VIII.94 s.v. νομοφύλακες:

ἐστεφανωνται μὲν στροφίῳ λευκῷ, τὴν δὲ πομπὴν πέμπουσι τῇ θεῷ, τοῖς δὲ προέδροις ἐν ἐκκλησίαις συγκαθίζουσιν, διακωλύοντες ἐπιχειροτονεῖν ὅσα μὴ συμφέρει.

They were crowned with a white headband, and sent the procession for the goddess, and they sat in the assemblies with the *proedroi*, preventing the voting of anything detrimental.

Photios *Suda* s.v. οἱ νομοφύλακες

οἱ νομοφύλακες τίνες· ἔδοξε τισὶ τοὺς αὐτοὺς εἶναι τοῖς θεσμοθέταις. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔστιν οὕτως. οἱ μὲν γὰρ θεσμοθετεῖ κατὰ τὰ πάτρια ἐστεφανωμένοι ἐπὶ τὸν Ἄρειον πάγον ἀνέβαινον, οἱ δὲ νομοφύλακες στρόφιοις λευκοῖς ἐχρῶντο, καὶ ἐν ταῖς θεαῖς ἐπὶ θρόνων ἐκάθηντο καταντικρὺ τῶν ἐννέα ἀρχόντων, καὶ τῇ Παλλάδι τὴν πομπὴν ἐκόσμου, ὅτε κομίζοιτο τὸ ξόανον ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν. ἠνάγκαζον δὲ καὶ τὰς ἀρχὰς χρῆσθαι τοῖς νόμοις, καὶ ἐν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις ἐκάθηντο μετὰ τῶν προέδρων, κωλύοντες ψηφίζειν, εἴ τι παράνομον αὐτοῖς εἶναι δόξειεν <ἢ> ἀσύμφορον τῇ πόλει.

Who are the *nomophylakes*? It seemed to some that they were the same as the *thesmothetai*. But it is not so. For the *thesmothetai* went up on the Areopagus crowned in the traditional

manner, while the *nomophylakes* wore white headbands, and sat in the theater upon seats directly opposite the nine archons, and they prepared the procession for Pallas, when her *xoanon* was taken to the sea. They compelled the authorities to use the laws, and in the assembly they sat with the *proedroi*, preventing voting, if they felt anything was unconstitutional (*paranomon*) or detrimental to the *polis*.

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