

The Aristocratic Household in Late Classical Athens

This paper will present epigraphic evidence for family composition in late classical Athens, the results of a study of the 100 large multi-generational funerary monuments that include extra women's names. Twenty of these families come from the liturgical class, identified in Davies' *Athenian Propertied Families*. This supports the evidence of the orators, that heads of household may have, despite Periclean legislation and other laws, retained considerable authority to determine family membership and to include marginal members, such as retired nurses, who might otherwise be homeless. It will include a discussion of this phenomenon in Dem. 47, Against Mnesiboulos and Euergos, Against Neaira, and Isaeus, De philoctemone.

This paper is in part inspired by McDowell's (1982) on the real life consequences of the law for an heiress as depicted on the stage in Menander's *Aspis*.

McDowell 1982 Greece and Rome second series 29 (1982)