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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
ANCIENT GREEK LAW



This companion volume provides a comprehensive overview of the major themes and topics pertinent to ancient Greek law. A substantial introduction establishes the recent historiography on this topic and its development over the past thirty years. Many of the twenty-two chapters, written by an international team of experts, deal with procedural and substantive law in classical Athens, but significant attention is also paid to legal practice in the archaic and Hellenistic eras; areas that offer substantial evidence for legal practice, such as Crete and Egypt; the intersection of law with religion, philosophy, political theory, rhetoric, and drama; as well as the unity of Greek law and the role of writing in law. The volume is intended to introduce nonspecialists to the field as well as to stimulate new thinking among specialists.

Michael Gagarin is James R. Dougherty, Jr. Centennial Professor of Classics at the University of Texas, Austin. He has been president of the American Philological Association and the Classical Association of the Middle West and South and has written widely in the areas of Greek law, rhetoric, literature, and philosophy. He is the author, most recently, of *Antiphon the Athenian: Oratory, Law and Justice in the Age of the Sophists*.

David Cohen is Professor of Classics and Rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the Director of the UC Berkeley War Crimes Studies Center and an Adjunct Fellow at the East-West Center. Dr. Cohen has published widely in the areas of Greek law, comparative legal history, and contemporary international humanitarian law. He received the Historical Research Prize from the Historisches Kolleg, Munich.

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LAW



Edited by

MICHAEL GAGARIN

University of Texas, Austin

DAVID COHEN

University of California, Berkeley



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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS



DANIELLE ALLEN is Dean of the Division of Humanities and Professor of Classics, Political Science, and the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. She is author of *The World of Prometheus: The Politics of Punishing in Democratic Athens* (2000) and *Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown v. Board of Education* (2004) and is working on issues of leadership in late fifth- and early fourth-century Athens.

EVA CANTARELLA is Professor of Roman Law at the University of Milan Law School, where she also teaches ancient Greek law. Among her more than 100 publications are *Pandora's Daughters: The Role and Status of Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity* (1986), *Bisexuality in the Ancient World* (1993), and *Ithaque: De la vengeance d' Ulysse à la naissance du droit* (2002).

DAVID COHEN is Professor of Classics and Rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the Director of the UC Berkeley War Crimes Studies Center and an Adjunct Fellow at the East-West Center. He has published widely in the areas of Greek law, comparative legal history, and contemporary international humanitarian law and received the Historical Research Prize of the Historisches Kolleg, Munich. His books include *Theft in Athenian Law* (1983), *Law, Sexuality and Society: The Enforcement of Morals in Classical Athens* (1992), *Law, Violence and Community in Classical Athens* (1995), and *Intended to Fail: Trials before the Jakarta Ad Hoc Human Rights Court* (2003).

EDWARD E. COHEN is Professor of Ancient History (adjunct) at the University of Pennsylvania and Chief Executive Officer of Atlas America, a leading U.S. producer and processor of natural gas. Among his books are *Ancient Athenian Maritime Courts* (1973), *Athenian Economy and Society: A Banking Perspective* (1992), and *The Athenian Nation* (2000).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN DAVIES, FBA, is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology at the University of Liverpool. Apart from his books *Athenian Propertied Families* (1971: 2nd edition in preparation) and *Democracy and Classical Greece* (1978: 2nd ed. 1993), his work has focused largely on the economic, social, cultic, and administrative history of classical and Hellenistic Greece.

MICHAEL GAGARIN is the James R. Dougherty, Jr. Centennial Professor of Classics at the University of Texas. He has written widely in the areas of Greek law, rhetoric, literature, and philosophy, including *Drakon and Early Athenian Homicide Law* (1981), *Early Greek Law* (1986), *The Murder of Herodes* (1989), and *Antiphon the Athenian: Oratory, Law and Justice in the Age of the Sophists* (Austin, TX 2002).

ADRIAAN LANNI is an Assistant Professor at the Harvard Law School.

A. A. LONG is Professor of Classics and Irving Stone Professor of Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. His most recent book is *Epictetus: A Stoic and Socratic Guide to Life* (2002), and he is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy* (1999).

ALBERTO MAFFI is Professor of History of Roman Law at Milano-Bicocca State University. He has written numerous books and articles on Greek and Roman law, including *Studi di epigrafia giuridica greca* (1983). He is the founder and editor of *Dike*, a journal of Greek and Hellenistic legal history.

JOSEPH MÉLÈZE MODRZEJEWSKI is Professor Emeritus of Ancient History at the Sorbonne and Professor of Papyrology and Ancient Legal History at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. In 1971, along with H. J. Wolff and A. Biscardi, he founded the Society for the History of Greek and Hellenistic Law (*Gesellschaft für griechische und hellenistische Rechtsgeschichte*), which sponsors a series of Symposium meetings. He has written extensively on the history of the Hellenistic world, ancient legal history, Greek papyrology and Greco-Roman Egypt, and the history of Judaism in the Second Temple period. His next book (forthcoming, in French) is on Greek law after Alexander.

JOSIAH OBER is David Magie Professor of Classics at Princeton University and holds a joint appointment in the University Center for

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Human Values. His books include *Fortress Attica* (1985), *Mass and Elite in Democratic Athens* (1989), *The Athenian Revolution* (1996), *Political Dissent in Democratic Athens* (1998), and most recently *A Company of Citizens* (2003). His current research focuses on the circulation of technical and social knowledge within democratic societies.

ROBERT PARKER is Wykeham Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford. He has written *Miasma: Pollution and Purification in Early Greek Religion* (1983), *Athenian Religion: A History* (1996), and *Polytheism and Society at Athens* (2005).

CYNTHIA PATTERSON is Associate Professor of History at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the author of *Pericles' Citizenship Law of 451/0 B.C.* (1981), *The Family in Greek History* (1998), and articles on aspects of Greek family and social history.

LENE RUBINSTEIN is Reader in Ancient History in the Department of Classics, Royal Holloway, University of London. She is the author of *Adoption in IV Century Athens* (1993) and *Litigation and Cooperation: Supporting Speakers in the Courts of Classical Athens* (2000) and has contributed chapters on the city-states of Aiolis and Ionia to the Copenhagen Polis Project. She is currently working on the institution of the volunteer prosecutor in the Greek world outside Athens in the classical and early Hellenistic periods.

HANS-ALBERT RUPPRECHT is Professor of Papyrology on the Law Faculty at the University of Marburg. Among his many publications on law in the Greek papyri are *Studien zur Quittung im Recht der graeco-ägyptischen Papyri* (1969) and *Kleine Einführung in die Papyruskunde* (1994). In addition he is editor of the posthumous work of Hans Julius Wolff, *Das Recht der griechischen Papyri Agyptens in der Zeit der Ptolemaer und des Prinzipats vol. I* (2002) and, since 1976, the *Sammelbuch griechischer Urkunden aus Agypten*.

ROSALIND THOMAS is Ancient History Fellow at Balliol College Oxford. Among her many works on literacy and orality in the Greek world are *Oral Tradition and Written Record in Classical Athens* (1989) and *Literacy and Orality in Ancient Greece* (1992). She has recently published *Herodotus in Context: Ethnography, Science and the Art of Persuasion* (2000) and is currently working on Greek historiography.

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GERHARD THÜR is Professor of Roman Law and Ancient Legal History in Graz, Austria, and Chairman of the Kommission für Antike Rechtsgeschichte at the Austrian Academy of Science. He works mainly on Greek procedural law and (with Hans Taeuber) published *Prozessrechtliche Inschriften Arkadiens* in 1994. A second edition (in English) of his first book, *Beweisführung vor den Schwurgerichtshöfen Athens: Die Proklesis zur Basanos* (1977), is in preparation.

STEPHEN C. TODD is Reader in Classics at the University of Manchester. Among his many studies of Athenian law and oratory is *The Shape of Athenian Law* (1993). He is currently preparing a multivolume commentary on the speeches of Lysias.

ROBERT W. WALLACE, Professor of Classics at Northwestern University, is the author of *The Areopagos Council, to 307 B.C.* (1989) and numerous articles in the field of Greek law, chiefly on questions pertaining to the regulation of personal conduct. He has also published in the fields of Greek history and the politics of Greek music theory.

HARVEY YUNIS is Professor of Classics at Rice University. He is author of *Taming Democracy: Models of Political Rhetoric in Classical Athens* (1996) and editor of a commentary on Demosthenes' *On the Crown* (2001) and of *Written Texts and the Rise of Literate Culture in Ancient Greece* (2003).

PREFACE



When Beatrice Rehl at Cambridge University Press first approached me with the idea of editing a Companion to Ancient Greek Law, I thought it would be a large undertaking. Now, as I look back over the five years it has taken to bring the project to completion, I see that the work has far outgrown my initial idea, just as in recent years the study of Greek law itself has grown well beyond its traditional boundaries. My co-editor, David Cohen, and I have enlisted the help of eighteen other authors from different countries and different schools of thought, and yet, even with the very generous amount of space Cambridge has allowed us, there are many fine scholars and worthy subjects that we have had to omit. Nonetheless, we hope readers will find the ensuing chapters as rich and interesting as it has been a rewarding experience for us to assemble them.

After our initial work together on the conception and composition of the volume, David and I took on separate tasks. In addition to writing two chapters, David's main contribution was the Introduction to the volume – a fascinating and quite personal account of the changing nature of scholarship on Greek law during the last quarter century. My own contribution, in addition to my two chapters, has been the more mundane editorial work of compiling bibliographies, copyediting, and nagging contributors to meet deadlines. All important decisions, however, have been made by David and me together.

Through all of this Beatrice Rehl has provided exceptionally useful advice, unfailing encouragement, and strong support. Her firm but always reasonable hand has guided our work throughout. She and her entire staff at Cambridge have been a pleasure to work with. I would also like to thank Jess Miner for her help translating two chapters from German. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the help of research funds from the University of Texas at Austin that enabled me to hire Luis Salas to compile the Index Locorum.

Michael Gagarin, January 2005