

PREFACE.

Between 1878 and the present time at least eight treatises devoted entirely to the Athenian Secretaries have been published. If we add articles in handbooks and dictionaries of classical antiquities in which statements of facts rather than proofs are furnished, the number must be doubled. The subject of this study is therefore an old, much-investigated one ; its point of view alone is new.

There were few annual offices at Athens not filled by boards of ten. There were fewer still filled by individuals. The secretaryships were such. Of the other single annual offices the names of the holders have with a few distinguished exceptions all been lost. It is, indeed, altogether owing to the fact that, in the case of the Secretaryships alone of their class, we know in large part the names and demes of their holders, that their study is of more than third-rate importance in Athenian Constitutional History. Knowing their demes we know their tribes, and as a result of the observation that the tribe of the psephismata secretary for any given year was determined by its position in the official order, something of value may have been derived from this study. Of this let the reader judge for himself.

During the fifth and fourth centuries B. C. the archons establish the years of the secretaries : during the third and second the psephismata secretaries will, hereafter, be our guides in fixing the years of the archons. To the list offered by me the names only of those archons have been admitted whose positions have been located or affected by the secretaries, and of these I am conscious that many will later have to be changed.

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