

Classics Presents ...

2024-25 Colloquium Series

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Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Watson Hall, Room 517

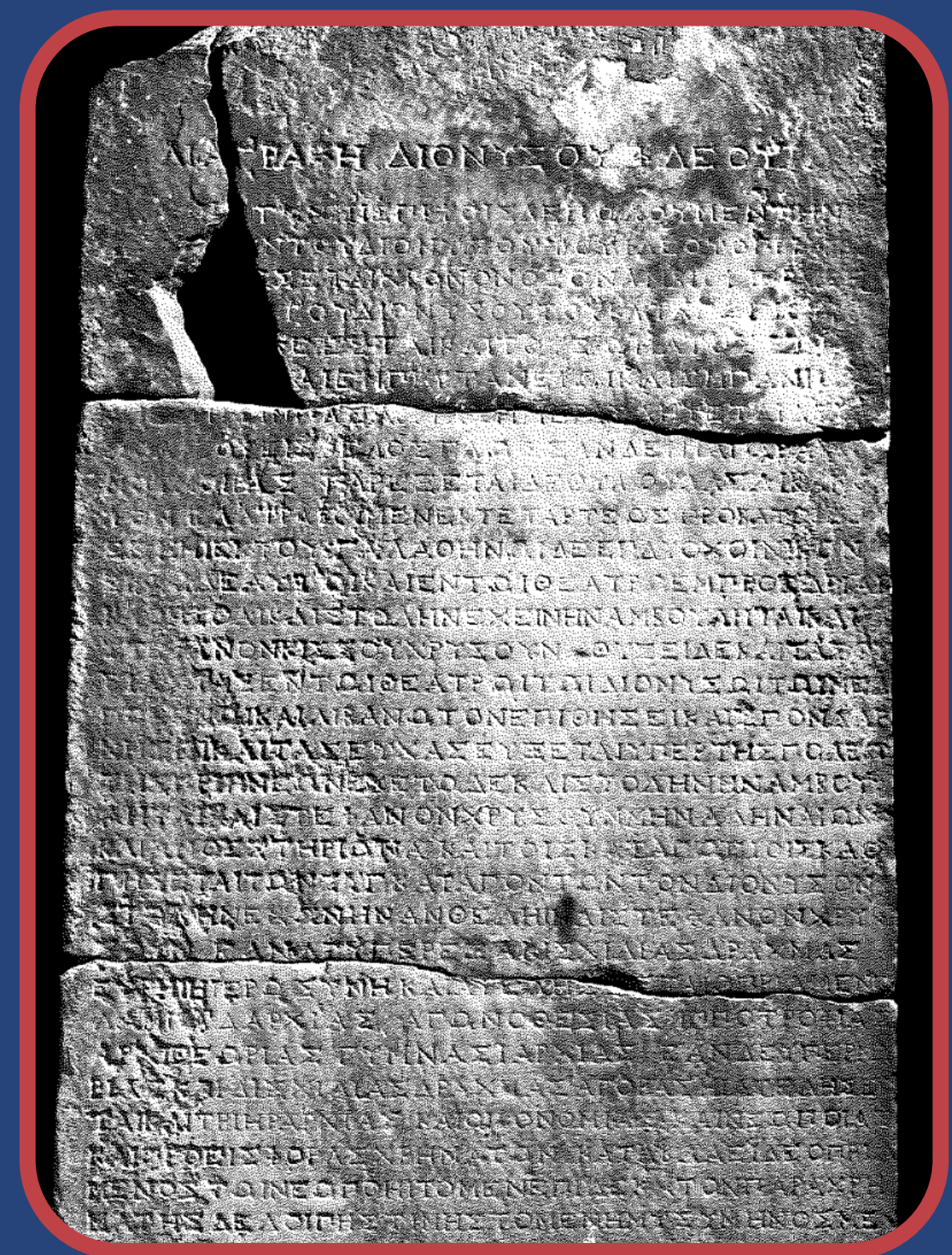
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm



The Sale of Priesthoods in Greek Cities :

Procedures, Mechanisms and Implications.

In ancient Greece, there were four different ways to acquire a priesthood, which vary according to the customs of each city: by inheritance, by election, by lot, and by purchase. While the practice of selling a priesthood through public auction remains unknown in mainland Greece, it became widespread in the Aegean islands and Anatolia between the 4th century BC and the 2nd century AD. This process is well-documented through contracts that were drawn up on the occasion of these sales, some of which have been preserved on stone. This paper aims to explore the procedures and mechanisms behind the sale of priesthoods and its broader implications for the social, economic, and religious life of ancient Greek communities. Examining these detailed documents, which provide extensive information about the terms of holding a religious office such as age, gender, perquisites, and ritual duties allows us to investigate the practical aspects of assuming a priesthood in the ancient Greek world.



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