

Classical Athenian Archival System: Anagrapheus and Demosion

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Abstract: This presentation is based on my master's thesis, "Athenian Archival System," which focuses on Anagrapheus and Demosion at the time of Democratic Athens' decline. Anagrapheus is a recorder or a registrar, while Demosion indicates what belongs to Demos, "the citizens." After a survey of previous studies, historical inscriptions, classical texts, and archaeological reports, I draw conclusions about the establishment of Metroon, the central archives of Athens.

After a crisis of democracy in 411 B.C., the Boule, the 500-member, lottery-chosen governing council of Athens, appointed an Anagrapheus to examine and revise the laws and decrees of the state. The Anagrapheus was supposed to do the survey and collect materials from both inside and outside of the Bouleuterion, the Boule's building, which brought about a need for more space. As a result, a new building was constructed for the assembly in the last decade of the fifth century B.C. The old building remained as office space, where legislative and administrative records of Athenians were kept, and for the first time made available to the citizens for consultation. At first called Demosion, the building became a place of worship for the Mother Goddess, guardian of the polis governance and protector of record authenticity. Eventually the building was re-named Metroon.

My thesis also examines the functions of the Boule in relation to the holdings of Metroon, and discusses public inscriptions in Athenian records management.

About the author:

Yayoi Tsutsui earned the degree of Master of Arts in Archival Science from Gakushuin University, the first graduate school of Archival Science in Japan, in March 2010. She has served on staff at the University Museum of the University of Tokyo, and the Shibusawa Memorial Foundation.

She has been involved in the construction of a number of exhibitions and databases, including:

"Between Original and Reproduction: The Art of Making Copies - from D(uchamp) to D(NA)" (Exhibition Catalog translation into English)

http://www.um.u-tokyo.ac.jp/publish_db/2001Hazama/08/8101.html

Photos for Art History Studies collected by Dr. Shigeyasu Hasumi

<http://www.um.u-tokyo.ac.jp/cgi-bin/umdb/hasumi.cgi>

Kamei-Bunko : Photos of European Cities in 1880s

<http://www.um.u-tokyo.ac.jp/dm3/Database/kamei.html>

Table of Contents of Shibusawa Eiichi Denki Shiryo (Materials Concerning the Life of Shibusawa Eiichi)

http://www.shibusawa.or.jp/english/eiichi/deniki_shiryo.html

Industrial Visual Images from Woodblock Prints

<http://ebiki.jp/>

Tsutsui received her Certificate of Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension School in 2001 and her Bachelor of Arts from International Christian University in 1980. She joined SAA in 2009 and attended the annual conference in Austin. She is a member of the Archival History Roundtable and the Museum Archives Section.