

The “apophora” system in Athens and Sparta in the classical age

(A study derived from the classical sources)

Abstract:

This study deals with the “apophora” system in Athens and Sparta through the writings of the historians, orators and poets of the classical age. Apophora properly means “produce or profit” of any kind; it was used at Athens to signify the profit which accrued to masters from their slaves. It thus signified the sum which slaves paid to their masters when they laboured on their own account, but it also meant the sum which the masters received themselves when they let out their slaves for hire either to work in the mines or any other kind of labour. Apophora also meant the money which was paid by the state for the use of the slaves who served in the fleet. Outside Athens the term was applied to the money which was paid by the allied states to Sparta, for the purpose of carrying on the war against the Persians. When Athens acquired supremacy, this money was also called apophora. In addition to, the previous definitions and usages, the study discusses another usage of apophora system in Sparta. There (Spartans). Finally, I compare between the apophora system in both Athens and Sparta.