**Connected Contests**

- Participants:
  - Onno van Nijf (Groningen); Christina Williamson (Brown/Groningen)
  - Esther van den Berg and Sam van Dijk (Groningen)
  - Caroline van Toor (Research Assistant)
- Collaboration and data sharing:
  - Mark Depauw (Groningen); Andrew Farrington (Kosmos); Sofie Remijnse (Mannheim)
- Aims:
  - Collection of an agonistic database and online presentation of athletes and performers
  - www.ancientathletesonline.com
  - Social Network Analysis
  - Study of the way in which Hellenistic and Roman ‘globalism’ was anchored in the Greek festival tradition
- So far …
  - van Nijf, Onno and Christina Williamson.
  - “Reinventing traditions connecting contests in the Hellenistic and Roman world.”
  - “Reinventing traditions connecting contests in the Hellenistic and Roman world.”

**Sulla as master of the (Greek) games**

- Sulla’s agonistic innovations:
  - Roman organisation of Olympic Games
  - Olympic institution of the games
  - Olympic games as a basis of Roman festivals
  - Olympic institution of the games
  - Olympic festivals
  - Olympic institution of the games

**Anchoring: Greek festival traditions**

- the classical periods & Magnesia, Stratonikeia, Amphipareion, Oropos, Thespiae

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**Agenda**

1. Connected Contests and After the Crisis
2. Introducing: Sulla the master of (Greek) Games
3. Anchoring: the Greek festival network
4. Innovating Rome and the festivals
Magnesia: mass-media on the agora

A new Panhellenic festival: I.Magnesia

...when later, (in 212) upon Artemis Leucophryene manifesting herself to them, they sent Agaristus, the god Apollo proclaimed in response to their enquiry: “It is better and more auspicious for those who honour Apollo Pythios and Artemis Leucophryene and recognize the city and country of the Magnesians as sacred and inviolable.”

...they were the first of those dwelling in Asia in favour of organizing a crowned contest ... But when having undertaken this they were fobbed off ...

...in Magnesia’s next they established the crowned contest, equal to the Pythia, giving a crown worth fifty staters, with the approval of the kings and all the other Greeks to whom they sent ambassadors, voting by nations and cities to honour Artemis and to make inviolable the city and country of Magnesia, because of the god’s urging ...

...c. 207 BCE

The world as seen from Magnesia

Enter the Romans STRATONIKEIA & LAGINA

The connections of Stratoneikea

Stratoneikea, Sulla, the following cities, and demes accept the city of the sanctuary and the contest which is organised every four years for Hekate Saviour Manifest and for the goddess Romë Benefractress, and that likewise are written up the names of the ethne that have accepted.

That the treasurers will pay out the sum for the inscriptions from the funds of Hekate and that likewise the name will be written up of those who accept later.

...Stratoneikea, Lucius Cornelius Sulla son of Lucius, dictator, having ordered since the city ever preserved its existing good will, fidelity, and alliance toward the Roman people, administering its own states in accordance with the policy of the latter, and made war against Mithridates, and resounding in our speech may already opposed the will and might of the king ...[asking] that they employ their own laws and customs which they employed before, and that when our forces they made co-emperor of this war which they declared against King Mithridates, that all these remain valid that they be permitted to retain Pedasus, The me ssus, Cera mus, and the territories, villages, harbors, and revenues of the cities which the imperator Lucius Cornelius Sulla assigned and granted to them in honor of their excellence that the long-prepared sanctuary of Hekate, goddess most manifest and great ...and be enrolled precisely in inscriptions.
The world as seen from Stratonikeia

The world as seen from Stratonikeia: with a crucial innovation

The potential: from “Weak Ties” to “Small Worlds”


Privileges for a synod of performers: letter from Sulla to Kos (RDGE 49)

A: With Good Fortune, L. Cornelius son of Lucius Sulla Epaphroditos dictator to the magistrates, body and people of Kos, greetings. To Alexander of Lycambis, a good man, our friend, entry from the United Association of Domestic Artists in Ionia and Hellespont, and of the Artist of Demetrios Kallineos. These grants permission to set up a stele among you in a conspicuous place, on which will be engraved the privileges given by metro Artists. Since he now came as an envoy to Rome, and the senate passed a edict about these matters, accordingly I advise you to see to it that the stele be designated among you a most conspicuous place in which will be stated the statute about the artist. I have appended a copy of the letters from me and of the decree of the senate...

B: and the goodwill which you have toward us, accordingly I wish you to know that I have concurred with my advisory board in granting you these privileges and honours, and immigration from the Ionian which quo the interest of Rome and the Munici and honor toward your corporate body; your statue, magistrates and prominent artists have passed, and granted, the stele shall keep, and, just as formerly, you shall be immune from every lawsuit and military service, and you shall not pay any tax or public expenses, and you shall not be forced to receive any lodging, and no order take...
Oropos: Sulla gives his support

Lucius Cornelius Sulla, in accordance with the advice of his advisory council, appears to have declared as follows for the purpose of fulfilling a vow I grant to the Temple of Amphiaras a tract of land of 1,000 ft in length and width, that this land also may be inviolate. Likewise he consecrated to the god Amphiaras all the revenues of the city, the territory, and the harbours of Oropos for the games and the sacrifices which the people of Oropos celebrated for the god Amphiaras, as well as for this which hereafter they shall celebrate for the victory and supremacy of the Roman people. The lands of Hermolaidas, son of Olympichos, priest of Amphiaras, who has steadfastly remained in the friendship of the Roman people.

Roman monuments

- 1: Sulla and Metella
- 4: Row of Roman dignitaries

Victory list of the first Amphiarai Romaina

Epigr. Tou Oropou 521:

A n innovative festival complex:
the Erotideia and Mouseia of Thespiae

Catchment area Thespiae 4th c BC
Catchment area Thespiae 1st BC

The Romanisation of a festival complex in Thespiae
- Erotideia Romaia IG vii 2517
- Kaisareia Erotideia Romaia IG vii 2518
- Megala Kaisareia Sebastea Mousea IG vii 1775 1776
- Erotideia kai Kaisareia Sebastea Mousea IThsp 15
- Megala Traianea Hadraneia Sebastea Mousea IThsp 177
- Mousea Sebastea kai Kaisareia kai Erotideia kai Romaia IThsp 359
- Erotideia kai Kaisareia kai Mousea kai Sebastas loulias IThsp 376, 377

Boiotian Festival networks
Levels of integration.

Romanising the content: victor list
- IThsp 178
- Enkomigraphon eis ton autokratora: Publius Antonius Maximus Neokoreites; enkomion eis Moussas: Publius Antonius Maximus Neokoreites; poietai eis ton autokratora: Aminios Epeterus Korinthios, Polrema eis tas Moussas: Damoneklos Damonas, Thespious 1 Thesp 179:
- Enkomion eis tous autokratoras (AD 161-180)

Prize winning praise poetry by Honestus from Corinth

Hadrian to the technitai: SEG 56, 1359
I have announced to you and also wrote to the cities from which delegations on this matter were present, my decisions on how the games, on which communications and requests have been addressed to me in Naples, are to be ordered. I have started from the Olympics because this contest is ancient and the most glorious of all Greek games. After those Olympics for the first time in the ancient calendar, let the Hadrianic games take place, and after the Peloponnesian games the Hadrianic games, so that the contest begins the next day after the festival in Euboea finishes. This is the tenth (or ninth) of the month Maitainkon in the Athenian calendar. Let the Hadrianic games last forty days (63). Let the contest in Tanais be held after the Hadrianic games in the month of January, while the games in Naples are held after (? the) Capetolia, as has been the case until now. Then the Acharus games, starting nine days before the calendar of October and completed in forty days ending along the coast (one comes) upon the Euboea and the Peloponnesian games, from the calendar of November to the calendar of January (66). After the Nemean come the Panhellenic games, so that the contest is carried out at the same date as it has done until now according to the Attic year (or calendar). After the Panhellenic games, let the Symmiae hold their games, the contestants having fifteen days from the Panhellenic Hoplitai for the voyage and the contest beginning immediately after the fifteen days and lasting forty days. After the Symmiae Hoplitai let after an interval of two days begin immediately the games of the Pergameneans and last the forty days ... κτλ.

quoted fr: Jones ZPE 146: 2004

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Hypothesis: from regional Hellenistic agonistic networks

To: A global agonistic (small world) network centered on Rome

Festivals forging European citizenship: A modern parallel?

Thank you for your attention