

Benefaction and Rewards in the Ancient Greek City: The Origins of Euergetism

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the Ancient Greek City: The Origins of Euergetism:

This volume presents for the first time an in-depth analysis of the origins of Greek euergetism. Derived from the Greek for 'benefactor', 'euergetism' refers to the process whereby citizens and foreigners offered voluntary services and donations to the polis that were in turn recognised as benefactions in a formal act of reciprocation. Euergetism is key to our understanding of how city-states negotiated both the internal tensions between mass and elite, and their conflicts with external powers. This study adopts the standpoint of historical anthropology and seeks to identify patterns of behaviour and social practices deeply rooted in Greek society and in the long course of Greek history. It covers more than five hundred years and will appeal to ancient historians and scholars in other fields interested in gift exchange, benefactions, philanthropy, power relationships between mass and elite, and the interplay between public discourse and social praxis.

About the Author Marc Domingo Gygax is Associate Professor of Classics at Princeton University and author of *Untersuchungen zu den lykischen Gemeinwesen in klassischer und hellenistischer Zeit* (2001). His main interests lie in ancient Greek history, historical anthropology, historical theory and modern historiography.