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THE ELGIN THRONE AND THE TYRANNICIDES

This paper reopens the questions of date and original location of the throne in Hymettian marble that was bought by Lord Elgin from the bishop of Athens in 1804 and is now in the J. Paul Getty Museum. The throne was documented in the late 18th century as standing outside the church of Soteira Lykodemou in Athens alongside a marble throne from the Panathenaic Stadium. It is signed by Boethos on the upper rim. The letter-forms of the inscription point to a date possibly in the first century B.C. The throne is decorated in relief with olive wreaths on the rear and with a copy of the Tyrannicides of Kritios and Nesiotes on one side, and a duel of Theseus and an amazon on the other. The amazonomachy is also represented on Panathenaic amphoras of the fourth century B.C. It will be argued that the decoration of the throne is inspired by famous statuary groups standing in Athens (following the practices of Neo-Attic workshops) and moreover alludes to the Panathenaic games.