

Name:

Source:

An Athenian Inscription: Law Against Tyranny (adapted)

http://www.agathe.gr/democracy/marble_stele.html

In 338 B.C. Philip II of Macedon defeated the Athenians and other Greek states in the battle at Chaironeia in central Greece. In 337/6 B.C. the Athenians passed a law against tyranny that reflects Athenian uncertainty concerning the future of their democracy. The law was written on a stele (στήλη) with a relief showing Democracy crowning Demos (the people of Athens), The inscription is an Athenian law forbidding cooperation with those plotting an antidemocratic coup and calling for the acquittal of anyone accused of murdering the tyrant.

"In the archonship of Phrynichos [i.e. in the year during which Phrynichos was the eponymous archon], in the ninth prytany of Leontis [i.e. in the period of the year during which the Leontis tribe was in charge] for which Chairestratos, son of Ameinias, from Acharnai, was secretary; Menestratos from Aixone, of the proedroi [i.e. the presidents], put the question to a vote; Eukrates, son of Aristodemos, from Peiraeus, made the motion; with Good Fortune of the Demos of the Athenians, be it resolved by the Nomothetai [i.e. lawgivers]: If anyone should rise up against the Demos for tyranny or join in establishing the tyranny or overthrow the Demos of the Athenians or the democracy in Athens, whoever kills him who does any of these things shall be blameless. It shall not be permitted for anyone of the Councillors of the Council from the Areopagos [i.e. Supreme Court] - if the Demos or the democracy in Athens having been overthrown - to go up into the Areopagos or sit in the Council or discuss about anything. If anyone of the members of the Areopagos - the Demos or the democracy in Athens having been overthrown - goes up into the Areopagos or sits in the Council or discusses about anything, both he and his family shall not have civil rights and his substance shall be confiscated and a tenth given to the Goddess..."

Question 1: What were the Athenians afraid of when they voted for this law?

Question 2: Write down the personal or collective offices mentioned in the inscription.
