

CHAPTER II

PROLEGOMENA TO THE CALENDAR

BEFORE THE presentation of the annual calendar certain topics, some of which have aroused controversy, must be discussed. Two disputed points which are of importance for the present study are the validity of certain epigraphical restorations and the proper denotation of certain days. Also the Athenian monthly festivals, which have never been studied as a distinct group, must be surveyed before they are incorporated, as they must be, into the Athenian annual calendar. Certain comments relative to the format of the annual calendar will also be included among these *prolegomena*.

1. DENOTATION OF DAYS

Throughout this study the days of the Athenian month will be designated with arabic numerals corresponding to the following Greek designations:

1 - νομηνία	20 - εικοστή, δεκάτη προτέρα
2 - δευτέρα ἱσταμένου	21 - δεκάτη ὑστέρα
3 - τρίτη ἱσταμένου	22 - ἐνάτη φθίνοντος,
4 - τετράς ἱσταμένου	ἐνάτη μετ' εικάδας
5 - πέμπτη ἱσταμένου	23 - ὀγδὴ φθίνοντος,
6 - ἕκτη ἱσταμένου	ὀγδὴ μετ' εικάδας
7 - ἑβδόμη ἱσταμένου	24 - ἑβδόμη φθίνοντος,
8 - ὀγδὴ ἱσταμένου	ἑβδόμη μετ' εικάδας
9 - ἐνάτη ἱσταμένου	25 - ἕκτη φθίνοντος,
10 - δεκάτη ἱσταμένου	ἕκτη μετ' εικάδας
11 - ἑνδεκάτη	26 - πέμπτη φθίνοντος,
12 - δωδεκάτη	πέμπτη μετ' εικάδας
13 - τρίτη ἐπὶ δέκα	27 - τετράς φθίνοντος,
14 - τετράς ἐπὶ δέκα	τετράς μετ' εικάδας
15 - πέμπτη ἐπὶ δέκα	28 - τρίτη φθίνοντος,
16 - ἕκτη ἐπὶ δέκα	τρίτη μετ' εικάδας
17 - ἑβδόμη ἐπὶ δέκα	29 - δευτέρα φθίνοντος,
18 - ὀγδὴ ἐπὶ δέκα	δευτέρα μετ' εικάδας
19 - ἐνάτη ἐπὶ δέκα	30 - ἔνη καὶ νέα

The days of each month are numbered as though a month contained thirty days. This is a somewhat artificial systematization, because an Athenian month might have either twenty-nine or thirty days, depending on the first observance of the new moon.¹ If the month had twenty-nine days, then the twenty-ninth day was the ἔνη καὶ νέα. If the month had thirty days, then the thirtieth day was the ἔνη καὶ νέα.

The system of numerical notation *supra* will not, however, either deceive the reader or falsify any of the results. In the first place, whether a month was hollow (having twenty-nine days) or full (having thirty days) does not affect the numbering of days νομηνία through τρίτη φθίνοντος, and thus there is no question concerning the notations for days 1-28. Also, δευτέρα φθίνοντος, when it occurs, must always be the twenty-ninth day. The only artificiality is to designate ἔνη καὶ νέα always as 30. It is necessary to do this in order to distinguish ἔνη καὶ νέα from δευτέρα φθίνοντος. It is also in perfect accord with the Athenian practice, whereby if the month were hollow, δευτέρα φθίνοντος and not ἔνη καὶ νέα was omitted.² So too in this study the last day in a hollow month (the ἔνη καὶ νέα) will be designated as 30, and day 29 will be considered as the day omitted.

The second major question involving the denotation of days concerns the dates including the phrase μετ' εικάδας. For years the question was whether the calculation should be forward (τρίτη μετ' εικάδας denoting 23) or backward from the end of the month (τρίτη μετ' εικάδας denoting 28). Meritt in 1935 (*Hesp* 1935, pp. 525-561) attempted to prove formally that although the μετ' εικάδας dates were usually calculated backward, there were some years in which forward calculation was used. In 1947 Pritchett and Neugebauer (*Calendars*, pp. 23-30) convincingly demonstrated that the evidence would allow retrograde calculation of μετ' εικάδας dates in every year. In 1961 Meritt still defended his original proposition (*Year*, pp. 38-59). But in 1964 Meritt finally abandoned belief in forward calculation.³ I, therefore, have confidently employed retrograde calculation of μετ' εικάδας dates throughout this study.

¹ The precise method for determining the length of a month is disputed: see Pritchett and Neugebauer, *Calendars*, pp. 11-14, and Meritt, *Year*, pp. 16-37.

² Pritchett and Neugebauer, *Calendars*, p. 31. See also Pritchett, *BCH* 88 (1964), pp. 463-467. For the claim that it was not the twenty-ninth day which was omitted in a hollow month, but either the twenty-first or twenty-second, see Meritt, *AJP* 95 (1974), pp. 268-279.

³ *TAPA* 95 (1964), p. 256, note 200.