THE INTERCALARY YEAR 157/6 B.C.

IT IS NOW generally agreed that the Athenian archon Anthesterios held office in the year 157/6 B.C.; but there has been incorporated into the extensive literature on the problem of the Athenian calendar no evidence which will show conclusively whether the year of Anthesterios was an ordinary year or was intercalary. W. B. Dinsmoor has, it is true, reasoned that the year 157/6 B.C. was intercalary, but he was not able to find epigraphic evidence to support his opinion. ²

There is, however, a passage in the inscriptions of Delos which proves conclusively that the year 157/6 B.C. was intercalary. ³ Inscr. de Délos, 1416, B, col. I is concerned with new leases that were issued during the archonship of Anthesterios for various properties owned by the Temple of Apollo, and records among other things the months in which the new leases were assigned. The entry recording three leases that were issued in the month of Metageitnion (lines 57-74) begins with the words Μεταγειτνιώνος το χρόνιον κ. τ. λ., and the entry recording five more issued in Maimakterion (lines 74-96) also begins with the name of the month (Μαίμακτηριώνος συνυκίαν κ. τ. λ.). The conclusive evidence for an intercalary year is contained in lines 110-115, which read as follows: Ποσιδεώνος ἐμβολίουν· [τὴν] οίκιαν ἢν εἶχεν Σωσθένης Διθαλίδης δραχ. ΠΔΔ, διὰ τὸ δὲ ἀπε[λ]ηθέναι Σωσθένην ἐμμονθώσατο Ἀπελλής Κάλου Κοβωκτίδης δραχ. [. ]Δ εἰς τὸν ἐπίδομον χρόνον τοῦ ἐναιμοῦ καὶ εἰς πέντε τὰ μετὰ Ἀνθεστήριον· ἔγγυς. Πόπλιος Λιμύλιος Ῥωμαῖος οἰκῶν ἐν Δήλῳ.

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CORRIGENDUM

In Hesperia, XVI, No. 2, 1947, plate XXII, middle picture, at the end of the legend delete the word “Dystos.”


2 Dinsmoor (The Athenian Archon List, p. 242) found no evidence for ordinary or intercalary years between 160/59 and 155/4 B.C. However, on page 243 he reduced the possibilities to three schemes, all of which made the year 157/6 B.C. intercalary. Pritchett and Meritt (Chronology, pp. xxxix and 129; cf. Hesperia, IX, 1940, p. 130) adduced evidence to show that the year 159/8 B.C. was ordinary, but they did not discuss the year 157/6 B.C.

3 Strictly speaking, the proof applies only to the year at Delos, but it seems an entirely plausible assumption that under Athenian law the intercalary years at Delos were identical with intercalary years at Athens.