

“*Hellandikai*” in the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, R. Bagnall, K. Brodersen, C. Champion, A. Erskine, and S. Huebner (eds.), Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012 (published electronically, not paginated).

Organizers and judges of the Olympic and Nemean Games (*IGIV 587*) and the Asklepieia Games at Epidauros (*IG IV² 98–9*). Judicial officials of the same name are attested at Sparta (*Xen. Lac.* 13.11).

Olympia was a religious sanctuary controlled by the polis of Elis, and the *Hellandikai* at Olympia were Elean magistrates. The title *Hellandikai* (Ἑλλανοδίκαί, “judges of the Greeks”) is first attested in the second quarter of the fifth century BCE (*Pind. Ol.* 3.12). Prior to that time, the Elean officials responsible for the Olympics were known as *diatateres* (arbitrators). The change in title probably came about when Elean *diatateres*, who in earlier periods also served as judges in the city of Elis (*IvO 2*), were given authority to enforce the truce agreed upon by the members of the anti-Persian alliance formed in 481 BCE (Ebert and Siewert 1999). *Hellandikai*, who held office for one Olympiad, seem to have been chosen by lot from a pool of candidates selected by the Elean people (Zoumbaki 2001: 139–40). The number of *Hellandikai* fluctuated over the course of time; ten was the norm from the mid-fourth century BCE (*Paus.* 5.9.4–6; schol. *Pind. Ol.* 3.22).

The *Hellandikai* had a range of duties before, during, and after the Olympics. They underwent instruction in the Olympic rules (*Paus.* 6.24.3), held trials before the games to weed out weaker athletes (*Paus.* 6.23.2–4), checked competitors' qualifications and assigned them to age categories (*Hdt.* 5.22; Philostr. *Gym.* 25), organized and judged individual contests (*IvO 54.5–10*; Lucian, *Hermot.* 41; *Paus.* 5.9.5), enforced contest rules by means of flogging or fines (*Hdt.* 8.59; *Paus.* 6.6.6), awarded prizes (*Ael. VH* 9.31; *Pind. Ol.* 3.12–13), implemented regulations on victor statues (Lucian *Pro Imaginibus* 11), and sometimes erected lists of Olympic victors. The *Hellandikai* were assisted by police officials (*alytai*, *SEG*17, 199). They worked in a building in Elis known as the *Hellandikaion* and had a special platform in the Olympic stadium (*Paus.* 6.20.8; 24.1–3).

The *Hellandikai* enjoyed a reputation for impartiality (*Plut. Lyc.* 20.3; Philostr. *VA* 4.29). An aura of sanctity surrounded their work: they wore purple robes (*Etym. Magn.* s.v. Ἑλλανοδίκαί), purified themselves before arriving at Olympia, and took an oath to judge justly (*Paus.* 5.16.8; 24.10). They were supervised by a body called the Olympic Council, to which competitors could appeal (*Paus.* 6.3.7).