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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

The Danish Institute at Athens is pleased to invite you to
a lecture in English by

Associate Professor Emeritus
Mogens Herman Hansen
SAXO-Institute, University of Copenhagen

”Orally Transmitted Law – in Ancient Greece and Beyond”

Thursday 3 October, 7 p.m.
at the Danish Institute



My lecture treats two issues: First: is it at all possible to have orally transmitted laws in the proper sense, i.e. unwritten general rules passed by a legislator or some legislative institution, whereafter they are remembered and transmitted to the next generation by all or some of the members of the community? Second: if that is possible, did the ancient Greeks have laws of that kind in the Archaic period before they began writing down their laws? In the first part I describe several examples that suggest a positive answer to the question. In the second part I treat some of Kleisthenes' constitutional measures as an example of what was presumably orally transmitted laws in this sense.