

Later writers refer to the poet's *strategia* as if it were a generally accepted fact¹.

§ 20. We have next to ask,—What ground is there for connecting this *strategia* of Sophocles with the production of his *Antigone*? The authority for such a connection is the first Argument to the play. This is ascribed to Aristophanes of Byzantium (*c.* 200 B.C.), but is more probably of later origin (see p. 3). It says;—‘They say (*φασί*) that Sophocles was appointed to the *strategia* which he held at Samos, because he had distinguished himself by the production of the *Antigone*.’ Here, as so often elsewhere, the phrase, ‘they say,’ is not an expression of doubt, but an indication that the story was found in several writers. We know the names of at least two writers in whose works such a tradition would have been likely to occur. One of them is Satyrus (*c.* 200 B.C.), whose collection of biographies was used by the author of the Life of Sophocles²; the other—also quoted in the Life—is Carystius of Pergamum, who lived about 110 B.C., and wrote a book, *Περὶ διδασκαλιῶν*—‘Chronicles of the Stage’—which Athenaeus cites. At the time when these works—and there were others of a similar kind—were compiled, old and authentic lists of Athenian plays, with their dates, appear to have been extant in such libraries as those of Alexandria and Pergamum. When, therefore, we meet with a tradition,—dating at least from the second century B.C.,—which affirms that the *strategia* of Sophocles was due to his *Antigone*, one inference, at least, is fairly secure. We may believe that the *Antigone* was known to have been produced earlier than the summer of 441 B.C. For, if Sophocles was *strategus* in the early spring of 440 B.C., he must have been elected in May, 441 B.C. The election of the

Had the play any bearing upon the poet's appointment?

¹ The Argument to this play, and the *Bíos Σοφοκλέους*, have already been cited. See also (1) Strabo 14. p. 638 Ἴ�θηναῖοι δὲ...πέμψαντες στρατηγὸν Περικλέα καὶ σὺν αὐτῷ Σοφοκλέα τὸν ποιητὴν κακῶς διέθηκαν ἀπειθοῦντας τοὺς Σαμίους. (2) Schol. on Ar. *Pax* 696 λέγεται δὲ ὅτι ἐκ τῆς στρατηγίας τῆς ἐν Σάμῳ ἠγυρίσατο (ὁ Σοφοκλῆς). (3) Suidas *s. v.* Μέλητος [but referring to the Samian Μέλισσος: *cp.* Diog. L. 9. 24] ὑπὲρ Σαμίων στρατηγῆσας ἐνανμάχησε πρὸς Σοφοκλῆν τὸν τραγικόν, Ὀλυμπιάδι πδ' (Ol. 84=444—441 B.C.).—The theory that Sophocles the poet was confused with Sophocles son of Sostratides, *strategus* in 425 B.C. (Thuc. 3. 115), is quite incompatible with the ancient evidence.

² See Introduction to the *Oed. Col.*, § 18, p. xli.