NOMOS
Direito e sociedade na Antiguidade Clássica
For early Athens the *Athenaion Politeia* followed as its main source a work on Solon which used and cited both Solon's poems and his laws: there will not have been good evidence for the state of affairs before Solon, but the account of what Solon did is based on his laws and is to be relied on. For the remainder of its historical part the *Athenaion Politeia* followed a variety of sources: some of these sources sometimes consulted the texts of decrees of the assembly, but they did not do so on all the occasions when they could have done. For the analysis of the contemporary constitution the *Athenaion Politeia* had no predecessor, and that part of the work is based largely on direct research in the laws of Athens.

The first, historical part of the *Athenaion Politeia* is based, as far as we can tell, not on original research in the archives but on earlier literary material: Herodotus and Thucydides when they provided relevant information (which was not often: Herodotus on the rise and fall of the Pisistratid tyranny, Thucydides on the fall of the tyranny and the oligarchic régimes of 411–410); other historians, particularly those historians of Athens known as Athidographers and most particularly Androtion, the most recent when the *Athenaion Politeia* was written (likely to have been used, for instance, for the dated items in chapters 22 and 26.2–4); and whatever other works could provide the kind of information in which our author was interested. For the second, analytic part, there were as far as we know no predecessors, no literary accounts which provided what our author needed, and this second part seems to have been based on direct consultation of the laws, and (whether or not the author was an Athenian citizen and able to participate) observation of the machinery in operation and conversation with men involved in its operation. Reports of and quotations from laws and decrees in the first part will be indirect, found by our author in his literary sources; use of the laws and decrees in the second part will be direct.\(^2\)

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1 My thanks to Dr. Leão for inviting me to contribute to this book.

2 For evidence and arguments supporting assertions which are made summarily here see RHODES (1981) passim. For the sources of the *Athenaion Politeia* see RHODES (1981) 15–30, 32–6, and dis-