CHAPTER SIX

PHASE III

During the panic at Athens following the battle of Chaironeia (summer 338), the Athenians hurriedly shored up their defenses. These emergency repairs, in which Demosthenes played a leading role, included the use of trees, metal, and gravestones in the construction of walls, moats, and palisades. Whatever was accomplished during this hasty effort, work may have stopped with the conclusion of the so-called Peace of Demades between Athens and Philip II, the victor at Chaironeia. By summer 337, the Athenians had initiated a systematic fortification project involving the circuits of Athens and Piraeus as well as the two great structures crossing the plain between those two cities (fig. 4). The extensive program of construction, probably focused on modernizing Athens' defenses in the face of improving methods of assault, was completed several years later. Since the supremacy of Macedon after 338 eclipsed the ability of the Athenians to act independently at sea, the rebuilt Long Walls (III) had no immediate role to play in Athenian military affairs. Built with a view to a future in which the Athenian navy once again controlled the sea lanes, the structures never actually served to maintain the connection between Athens and its harbors during a siege. In fact, the phase III Long Walls enter the historical record only as part of purely local activity by a Macedonian force not long after the Lamian War.

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1 Dem. 18.248, cf. 18.300; cf. Din. 1.78. Buckler 2003, 505 rejects the orator's claim to have played an important part in the effort.  
2 Aeschin. 3.236; Lycurg. 1.44. Since Aischines alludes to the dismantling of tombs, then he is referring to the emergency works carried out immediately after Chaironeia rather than the more systematic program begun in 337; see also Adams 1919, 492 n. 1; Harris 1995, 143; cf. Camp 2001, 142–43. Lykourgos' report that temples contributed hopla to the work presumably refers to metal equipment like weaponry which was melted down to make tools, dowels, and clamps. For physical remains assigned to the repairs in 338, see Ohly 1965, 341–43; cf. Knügge 1966, 42.  
3 Schäfer 1887, 80. On the peace, see Diod. XVI.87.3; Schmitt 1969, 1–3 no. 492; Griffith in Hammond and Griffith 1979, 605–8; Will 1983, 11–16; Sealey 1993, 198–99; Ellis 1994b, 782; Buckler 2003, 505–6.  
4 Because the two phase III Long Walls, like their phase II predecessors, ran from Athens down to Piraeus, one may assume continuity in function from the one building period to the next.
During the first half of 337, in two meetings convened by Philip at Corinth, delegates from all the Greek states except Sparta established a common peace and formed the Corinthian League. Literary sources show that, even as this process unfolded, the Athenians were embarking on a comprehensive and systematic fortification program. Demosthenes, speaking in the Assembly during late spring 337, proposed that in June of that year the tribes select officials to supervise work on the walls of the city’s fortification system. In the event, the orator himself was elected to represent his tribe on the supervisory board, received about ten talents from the state for his work on the defenses, and contributed 100 minai of his own funds to the effort. Presumably the construction program began not long after the organization of the building commission in mid- to late summer 337. Assuming that each of the ten building commissioners received the same sum as did Demosthenes, then the Athenians set aside a considerable sum, on the order of 100 talents, for the project.

The nature of Demosthenes’ role in the work carries useful implications concerning the broader organization and scope of the project. Assuming that each tribe elected one teichopoios, then there were ten