The inscription IG i3 1032, known as the Athenian Naval Catalogue, consists of eleven fragments of Pentelic marble dating from the late fifth or early fourth century BC. Found atop and near the Akropolis at different times, these fragments were painstakingly assembled by Laing to reconstruct a monument that once stood at least 2.15 m. tall and 1.0 m. wide, and was inscribed with a complete listing of the crews of eight Athenian triremes spread out over ten columns.1 Graham’s recent reexamination of the fragments has confirmed Laing’s reconstruction in its essentials.2 The extant portions of the inscription permit detailed analysis of the crews of four of the triremes, labelled for convenience T1, T2, T3, and T4. Lines 1-140 constitute the remains of T1’s crew list; lines 141-275, those of T2’s list; lines 276-406, those of T3’s list; and lines 407-484, those of T4’s list.3

Each ship was manned by roughly two hundred men, listed hierarchically. The two syntrierarchs come first, followed by ten ἐπιβάται (marines). Next come the remaining members of the ὑπηρεσία (petty officers and assistants to the trierarchs).4 Last but not least are the remaining 170 or so men who toiled at the three banks of oars. This group, the sailors proper, were subdivided into contingents based on civic status and again listed hierarchically. Citizen sailors, listed under the heading

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1 Laing (1965: 49-50).
2 Graham (1998: 93): “the only matter where my examination of the fragments led me to differ from Laing concerned the uninscribed parts of the inscription, or vacats.”
3 Lewis (1994: 687-692, # 1032) offers the most recent text of the inscription, which is followed here. While the adjustments Graham (1998: 94-98) would make to Laing’s and Lewis’ vacats affect calculations regarding the inscription’s missing portions, they have little effect on the arguments and analysis presented here.
4 For this meaning of ὑπηρεσία in 432 BC and thereafter see Morrison (1984: 49-56).
ναύται ἀστοί, lead the way.\(^5\) Next come the ξένοι, that is, foreign allies and metics.\(^6\) The θεράποντες, slaves, bring up the rear. While these aggregate data are revealing about the overall composition of the crews, the Catalogue also offers further information about each individual crew member. Citizens are listed with their demotic, metics with their deme of residence, foreigners with their ethnikon, and slaves with the name of their master in the genitive.\(^7\)

One of the most striking facts to emerge from the inscription’s demographic information is that non-citizens comprised approximately 60-70% of the crew of each of the four ships.\(^8\) It is unclear whether the inscription reflects common Athenian practice in this regard.\(^9\) Many attempts to contextualize the monument have centred on the question of date. Its Ionic letters, deployed in a non-stoichedon pattern, place it towards the end of the fifth century or the beginning of the fourth.\(^10\) The most significant piece of internal evidence is that each of the ships is commanded by not one but two trierarchs, who are listed under a heading with a dual noun, τριηράρχω.\(^11\) Although the syntriarchy existed by 409-405 (Lys. 32.24), Graham rightly notes this is a terminus ante quem for the origin of the practice, rather than a terminus post or ante

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\(^6\) On the restoration of the heading ξένοι at lines 71 and 417 see Laing (1965: 33 n.33). There is some uncertainty about how metics were actually listed. On T2, the sailor Euphronios is described as ἐπὶ Σου (line 226), literally “in the region of Sounion.” Despite the use of the preposition ἐπὶ instead of the more customary ἐν, Euphronios is universally regarded as a metic (e.g., Laing [1965: 64], Graham [1998: 98]). The fact that he comes right before the θεράποντες begin suggests that he was listed among the ξένοι. See also n.7 below.

\(^7\) The bulk of the inscription’s metics are listed on fragment g, which has no physical joins with any other fragments and contains a number of anomalies. Although some men here are clearly metics, listed with the preposition ἐν + deme of residence (lines 424, 425, 427, 428, 433, 436, 437, 440, 442, 445, 448), the status of the seven men listed with the prepositions ἐκ ἢ ἐξ ἢ ἐς + demotic (lines 421, 422, 423, 429, 430, 432, 434) is less obvious. Moreover, mixed in among the men of fragment g we find at least one citizen (Tunnon from Phaleron, line 426) and one foreigner (Simos from Thasos, line 431). One plausible explanation for these anomalies is that this ship’s trierarchs differed from the others in their record-keeping.

\(^8\) Laing (1965: 93).


\(^10\) Laing (1965: 94).

\(^11\) Lines 21, 141, 276, 407.