

# Aarhus Seminars in Classical Antiquity

KLASSISKE STUDIERS SEMINARRÆKKE E2022

Janric van Rookhuijzen, Utrecht

## Jeppesen's Legacy: The Erechtheion Problem Revisited

The location of the temple of the mythical king Erechtheus, known as the "Erechtheion", on the Acropolis of Athens is an old topographical problem. It was Kristian Jeppesen of Aarhus University who in 1979 opened the debate by questioning the traditional view that the Erechtheion was a part of the Caryatid Temple. The Caryatid Temple, according to Jeppesen, was primarily the Temple of Athena Polias. Although many other scholars have accepted this thesis, no convincing "alternative Erechtheion" has hitherto been found. Hence, despite Jeppesen's excellent analysis, the traditional view is still in place. In this talk, I revisit the problem and consider why Jeppesen's theory ultimately has not been able to supplant the traditional view. I then consider a new hypothesis: that the true Erechtheion was the so-called "Dörpfeld foundation" in the middle of the Acropolis, the site of an Archaic building that was destroyed by the Persians in 480 BCE.



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