

## **Judge in dramatic competitions**

In classical Athens, the competitions in tragedy, comedy and dithyramb (choral lyric compositions, nominally in honor of Dionysus), at festivals such as the City Dionysia, were judged by ten-man panels selected by lot from longer lists of nominees. Each judge wrote on his tablet the name of the competitor he thought the best (and probably also his own name, since it was apparently known afterwards who had voted for whom). Five of the ten tablets were drawn at random and read; the competitor with most votes was declared the winner. In the event of a tie, two further tablets were drawn, and if there was still no clear winner, one more was drawn at a time, if necessary until all ten tablets had been read, but stopping as soon as there was one competitor alone in first place. Any tablets that had not been read were destroyed or erased. Competitors other than the winner were ranked in order of the number of votes they had received; if two or more contestants had tied with one vote each, preference was given to the first to reach that score.