

In the end of the 5th century B.C., the Andokides' speech On the mysteries represents an interesting source of information. It focuses on the processes with impious criminals who mutilated herms and profaned Eleusinian mysteries in 415 B.C., and the revision of Athenian laws in 403 B.C. This thesis attempts to present this speech in historical context, to evaluate critically its credibility, and to point out general problems concerning the use of the corpus of the Attic orators as a source of information regarding political and legal history. Thus the centre of the thesis lies in the commentary attached to a completely new Czech translation of Andokides' speech.