**Xenophon’s Oeconomicus**

… a wife who is a good partner in the estate carries just as much weight as her husband in attaining prosperity. Property generally comes inot the house through the exertions of the husband, but it is mostly dispensed through the housekeeping of the wife. If these activities are performed well, estates increase, but if they are managed incompetently estates diminish.

… the man who is going to be a successful farmer must make his laborers eager and disposed to be obedient….Slaves need some good thing to look forward to no less, in fact, even more than free men so that they will be willing to stay…When farming is successful, all other arts prosper, but whenever the earth is forced to lie barren the other are, both on earth and sea, are virtually extinguished.

… land is not wealth for a man who cultivates I in such as way that by its cultivation he incurs loss. …Things [including money] … can be wealth for the person who knows how to use …them, but not wealth for one who does not know…enemies…are wealth to anyone who can benefit from enemies…knowing how to use enemies so as to derive benefit from them is a characteristic for a good estate manager.

**Questions:**

1. Why was a steady supply of cheap labor available to Greek estate owners?
2. According to Xenophon, how should the landowner class view marriage?
3. What relationship existed between agriculture and the arts in Greek society?
4. According the Xenophon, what is the ultimate proof that an estate is properly managed?
5. How can enemies be considered an economic asset?

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