Author: ALEXANDRU AVRAM

CAPInv. 1119: **U-THR-025**

i.	Geographical area	Thrace
ii.	Region	Euxine Coast
iii.	Site	Dionysopolis

i. Association with unknown name	U-THR-025

i. Date(s)	241 - 244 AD

i.	Source(s)	IGBulg I ² 22 bis (AD 241-244)	
	Online Resources	IGBulg I ² 22 bis and AGRW ID 14344	
i.a.	Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)	
i.b.	Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek dedication of the association to emperor Gordian III and Sabinia Tranquillina.	
i.c.	Physical format(s)	Three joining fragments of a marble stele but the text remains fragmentary (the right upper part and the whole bottom are lacking).	

i	. Leadership	Unnamed ἱ[ερεύς], hiereus (ἡ περὶ τὸν ἱ[ερέα], he peri ton hi[erea] (1. 5). Since the feminine article ἡ, he, surely refers to the disappeared name of the association (e.g. ἡ [συνόδος], he [synodos]), we can infer that the hiereus was its leader and not its founder.
i	i. Members	Some broken names are preserved.

iv. Officials	One ἀρχιγάλλος, archigallos (l. 17).
	Two γραμμ[ατεῖς], gramm[ateis] (Il. 19 and 21).
	One could add with caution an ἄρχ[1], $arch[i -]$ (1. 22). Nothing to say about the isolated $πατέρα$,
	patera (acc., 1. 7), whether it is meant in a religious sense or simply somebody's father?

ii.	Gender	Men
	Note	The attested members are men.
iii.	Age	Adults

i. Comments	The mention of an ἀρχιγάλλος, archigallos (l. 17) invited more scholars to suppose a Dionysiac association (Jaccottet 2003: II.110 does however not include this inscription in her corpus, "ne trouvant aucun indice de l'appartenance de ce texte, d'ailleurs fort lacunaire, à la sphère dionysiaque"). But Cybele is also a good, if not better candidate (see especially the archigallos from Pessinus). Moreover, the recent discovery of the temple of the 'Pontic Mother of Gods' at Dionysopolis and of two inscriptions referring both to associations connected with this cult (CAPInv. 1156 and CAPInv. 1157) makes likely the supposition that we have to do with a cult association of worshippers of the Pontic Mother of Gods.
iii. Bibliography	Jaccottet, AF. (2003), Choisir Dionysos. Les associations dionysiaques ou la face cachée du dionysisme. 2 vols. Zurich.

i. Privat	te association	Certain
Note		The terminology of the officials (especially <i>he peri ton hi[erea]</i> , l. 5) points to a private association.

