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CAPInv. 1264: aristopyleitai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Black Sea Region
ii. Region	North coast of the Black Sea
iii. Site	Pantikapaion

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἀριστοπυλείται (CIRB 36, l. 13)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>aristopyleitai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	275 - 279 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Status-related:	<i>aristopyleitai</i> : the word is a hapax. It has been interpreted as meaning 'courtiers' (derived from πύλαι, <i>pylai</i> , here 'royal palace').
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	CIRB 36 (AD 275-279)
Online Resources	CIRB 36
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek dedication of the ἀριστοπυλείται, <i>aristopyleitai</i> , to Zeus Σωτήρ, <i>Soter</i> , Hera Σώτειρα, <i>Soteira</i> , King Teiranos and Queen Ailia, followed by a long list of the members of the association.

i.c. Physical format(s)	Marble statue base inscribed on three faces. The base was decorated with a relief depicting two busts.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Pantikapaion

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains	The statue base itself.
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VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	Ioul(ios) Chopha[r]nes Aphrodeisiou ἱερέυς, <i>hiereus</i> , a former λοχαγός, <i>lochagos</i> (Il. A 11-12).
iii. Members	Under the heading οἱ λοιποὶ ἀριστοπυλεῖται, <i>hoi loipoi aristopyleítai</i> (l. A 13) at least 91 names (all with patronyms) are more or less completely preserved.
iv. Officials	Besides the military or civil officials the inscription mentions: one γραμματεὺς, <i>grammateus</i> (of the association rather than of the royal palace) (Il. B 34-5); at least 15 ἐπιμη[ν]ι<εὺ>σαντες, <i>epime[n]i<eu>santes</i> , i.e. 'former presidents of sessions' (Il. B 43-4): this office invites to postulate regular assemblies.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	More than 91.
ii. Gender	Men
Note	The names are male names.
iii. Age	Children Adults
Note	At the damaged end of the inscription (Il. B 75-8) were inscribed the names of at least two νεώτεροι, <i>neoteroi</i> .
iv. Status	Some of the members are high military or civil officials at the royal court.

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	Given the dedication to Zeus <i>Soter</i> and Hera <i>Soteira</i> , worship by the group may be supposed.
Deities worshipped	Zeus <i>Soter</i> and Hera <i>Soteira</i>

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	Since the association is constituted by high rank officials of the Bosporan Kingdom, it is obviously closely connected to the king and the royal court.
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XII. NOTES

iii. Bibliography

Gajdukevich, V.F. (1971), *Das Bosporanische Reich*. Berlin, Amsterdam: 471.
Jajlenko, V.P. (2010): *Tysjacheletnij Bosporskij Rejkh [A Thousand Year Bosporan Reich (sic)]*. Moscow: 403-8.
Ustinova, Yu. (1999), *The Supreme Gods of the Bosporan Kingdom. Celestial Aphrodite and the Most High God*. Leiden, Boston, Cologne: 8 and 136-7.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

The terminology used points to a private association.