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CAPInv. 127: hoi aleiphomenoi

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Aegean Islands
ii. Region	Thera
iii. Site	Ancient Thera

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	οἱ ἀλειφόμενοι (IG XII.3 331, ll. 1, 6, 19, 46)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hoi aleiphomenoi</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	153 / 152 BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

i. Name in other forms	τὸ κοινόν, <i>to koinon</i> (l. 7, 27) πάντες οἱ ἀλειφόμενοι, <i>pantes hoi aleiphomenoi</i> (ll. 45-6)
ii. Name elements	Other: <i>aleiphomenoi</i> : those who anoint themselves with oil and subsequently those who partake in physical exercise and in gymnasium's life.
iii. Descriptive terms	κοινόν, <i>koinon</i>
Note	ll. 7, 27

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG XII.3 331 + IG XII.3 Suppl. p. 285 (153/152 BC)
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Note	<p>Date: Baton was gymnasiarch in the 26th, 27th and 28th year of an unnamed king (Il. 15-6). The unnamed king has been identified with Ptolemy VI Philometor and the decree dates to 153/152 BC (Bagnall 1976: 129).</p> <p>Other editions: Coll. Froehner, no. 95 Kotsidu 2000: 237-9, no. 157 [E 1]</p> <p>See also Chankowski 2010: 169-72; 448 no. 22.</p>
Online Resources	IG XII.3 331 + IG XII.3 Suppl. p. 285
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Honorific decree in Greek for the gymnasiarch Baton, son of Philon, by the <i>aleiphomenoi</i> .
i.c. Physical format(s)	<p>The present stele of porphyrite is a copy made in the late 16th c. / early 17th c. (Cuvigny & Vagenheim 2005). The original text, carved on stone ('marble') is now lost.</p> <p>Dimensions of copy: H. 29.4 x W. 43.5 (incomplete) x Th. 3 cm.</p> <p>Dimensions of lost original: H. 35.32 x Th. 49.31 x Th. 3.68 cm.</p>
ii. Source(s) provenance	The inscription has been attributed to ancient Thera. It was seen in the island by Cyriac d'Ancona in 1445-1446. Now in Cabinet des Médailles in Paris (on the adventures and whereabouts of the inscription see Cuvigny & Vagenheim 2005).

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	<p>γυμνάσιον, <i>gymnasion</i> (Il. 7, 12) θαλλὸς στέφανος, <i>thallos stephanos</i> (Il. 9-10) ἄθλα, <i>athla</i> (l. 25) χρυσοὶ στέφανοι, <i>chrysoi stephanoi</i> (38-40) γραπτὴ εἰκὼν, <i>grapte eikon</i> (Il. 30-1) λεῦκωμα, <i>leukoma</i> (l. 40) στήλη λίθινη, <i>stèle lithine</i> (Il. 41-2) ἐπιφανέστατος τόπος τοῦ γυμνασίου, <i>epiphanestatos topos tou gymnasiou</i> (Il. 42-3)</p>
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VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	<p>γυμνασίαρχος, <i>gymnasiarchos</i> (Il. 3-4) Baton has been appointed gymnasiarch for five consecutive years and he has been asked to remain in office for one more year.</p>
Known practice of appointment	<p>προχειρισθείς, <i>procheiristheis</i> (l. 3) Baton was appointed gymnasiarch, presumably by the <i>aleiphomenoi</i>.</p>
iii. Members	ἀλειφόμενοι, <i>aleiphomenoi</i> (Il. 1, 6, 46)

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	The term <i>aleiphomenoi</i> refers to men, frequenting the gymnasium.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	Although there is no explicit reference to the age of the members, the <i>aleiphomenoi</i> should denote the adult males frequenting the gymnasium, and not the <i>paides</i> or <i>ephebes</i> .

v. Relations

The name Baton is also attested twice in the stele containing the letter of Philometor to Apollonios, the commander of Thera that dates a decade earlier (IG XII.3 327, ll. 50, 178). Given the close chronological proximity of the decree (153/152 BC) and the letter of Ptolemy (164/163-160/159 BC), it is quite possible that Baton is one and the same individual, a member of the Ptolemaic garrison.

X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events

The *aleiphomenoi* partake in the athletic contests in honor of Hermes and Herakles, organized by Baton on behalf of the Ptolemaic king (Ptolemy VI Philometor). The *athla* (prizes) for the athletic contests were set by Baton.

iii. Worship

From the athletic contests organized in honour of Hermes and Herakles, the gods par excellence of the gymnasium, we can assume that these two deities were worshipped by the *aleiphomenoi*.

Deities worshipped

Hermes and Herakles

iv. Honours/Other activities

The decree enumerates the honours bestowed upon Baton, son of Philon, by the *aleiphomenoi* over a number of years.

- Honours bestowed upon Baton for the first and second term in office (ll. 1-15): The *aleiphomenoi* crowned Baton with a foliage crown for holding the office of the gymnasiarchy for 2 consecutive years (ll. 7-10). On the account of Baton's love for honours (*philotimia*) and the care he showed towards the *aleiphomenoi* the honours conferred on him were recorded as a reminder (ll. 10-5).

- Honours bestowed upon Baton for the third, fourth and fifth term in office (ll. 15-36): Baton, deeming it worthy (the office of the gymnasiarchy), held the office for three more years (ll. 15-7). During this three-year period he maintained the appropriate good order, and showing more zeal and love for honour than those of the *topos* (i.e. the gymnasium) and the *aleiphomenoi* he presided over the athletic contests in honour of Hermes and Herakles on behalf of the king. He beautified (the contests) according to this resources setting up prizes at his own expense appropriate to those competing (at the contests). Demonstrating all his eagerness and zeal the *koinon* bestowed gold crowns upon Baton and honoured him with a painted portrait for having held the office of the gymnasiarchy for a third, fourth and fifth time and for presiding over the *neoi* decently and adequately.

- Honours bestowed upon Baton upon issue of the decree (ll. 36-46):

Baton shall be praised and crowned again with a gold crown. The gold crowns shall be registered in a notice-board

(*leukoma*). The stele of the decree was to be set up in the most conspicuous place in the gymnasium.

He was asked to assume of the office of the gymnasiarchy for a sixth time, as by doing this he will be acceptable by all the *aleiphomenoi*.

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction

The *aleiphomenoi* were probably members of the Ptolemaic garrison (Chankowski 2010: 169). Baton, their gymnasiarch, was in all likelihood a soldier in the Ptolemaic garrison (see IX.v.).

ii. Interaction abroad

The athletic contests were organized on behalf of the Ptolemaic king.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>The <i>neoi</i> are mentioned in lines 34-5. Chankowski (2010: 448, no. 22) considers that the words <i>neoi</i> and <i>aleiphomenoi</i> are used interchangeably. However, upon closer examination of the context in which these two terms appear in the text, the following can be observed: in the decree it is explicitly stated that Baton was honoured for having been gymnasiarch for the third, fourth and fifth consecutive time and for having taken over the superintendence of the <i>neoi</i> in a graceful and suitable manner (ll. 34-6: τῶν νέων προστασίαν εὐσχήμονά τε καὶ πρέπουσαν ποιησάμενον). <i>Neoi</i> upon completing their ephebate kept practicing in the gymnasium. It seems that Baton supervised the <i>neoi</i> in physical training. The <i>neoi</i> appear as a distinct group from the <i>aleiphomenoi</i> in terms of the physical activities they were involved in.</p>
ii. Poland concordance	Poland B 62
iii. Bibliography	<p>Bagnall, R. (1976), <i>The administration of the Ptolemaic possessions outside Egypt</i>. Leiden.</p> <p>Chaniotis, A. (2002) 'Foreign soldiers - Native girls? Constructing and crossing boundaries in Hellenistic cities with foreign garrisons', in P. Ducrey & A. Chaniotis (eds.), <i>Army and Power in the Ancient World</i>. Stuttgart: 99-113.</p> <p>Chankowski, A.S. (2010): <i>L'éphébie hellénistique. Étude d'une institution civique dans les cités grecques des îles de la mer Égée et de l'Asie Mineure</i>. Paris.</p> <p>Cuvigny, H. and G. Vagenheim (2005), 'Un "Faux" sur porphyre: Avatars et aventures de la stèle de Théra honorant le gymnasiarque Batôn (IG XII 3, 331, 153 av. J.-C.)', <i>ZPE</i> 151: 105-26.</p> <p>Kotsidu, H. (2000), <i>Time kai doxa: Ehrungen für hellenistische Herrscher im griechischen Mutterland und in Kleinasien unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der archäologischen Denkmäler</i>. Berlin.</p>

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	<p>The group is called <i>aleiphomenoi</i> as well as <i>koinon</i>. It has its own official (gymnasiarch), appointed by the association and not by the city. The <i>aleiphomenoi</i> of the inscription were probably soldiers of the Ptolemaic garrison, organized in an association centered around the gymnasium (not the gymnasium of the city of Thera as assumed by Chaniotis 2002: 110; see IG XII.3, 327 for a list of soldiers of the Ptolemaic garrison contributing to the repair of the gymnasium).</p>