

CAPInv. 1332: **hoi philoteimoi**

## I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Libya with Cyrenaica
ii. Region	Cyrenaica
iii. Site	Cyrene

## II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	οἱ φιλόταιμοι (SEG 20: 728, l. 2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hoi philoteimoi</i>

## III. DATE

i. Date(s)	195 - 211 AD
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## IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Other:	<i>philoteimoi</i> (honorific) may be a group who received specific honours from the city or another group and who may have formed an association.
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## V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	SEG 20: 728 (AD 195-211)
Note	See also: SEG 35: 1717
Online Resources	<a href="#">SEG 20: 728</a>
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek dedication of the Severan Propylaeum. The text runs on the architrave of the Propylaeum, below a high-relief depicting a battle between Roman and Parthians. The emperor Septimius Severus and Caracalla can be identified on the relief.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Architrave made originally of 3 blocks of which only 2 survived. The relief and the inscription originally continued on a third block on the right side.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Cyrene, 'central quarter' (main city-center during the Roman period).

## VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains	Remains of the Severan Propylaeum have been uncovered during excavations, including two blocks of the relief depicting the battle between Roman and Parthians. For a full description and photographs of the monument, relief and inscription, see Stucchi 1975: 271-3; Ward-Perkins and Gibson 1976-1977; Bonanno 1976-1977; Strong 1972-1972; Laronde 1983; Stucchi 1987: 47-52; Stucchi 1988; Bonacasa and Ensoli 2000: 153.
ii. References to buildings/objects	The association is not mentioned because it has offered the Propylaea themselves, but rather a statue of the emperor in a chariot, which may have been placed on top of the Propylaea. The sculpture has not been found during excavations.

## VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	<i>hoi philoteimoi</i> may refer to members of the association or to its officials.
iv. Officials	<i>hoi philoteimoi</i> may refer to the officials of the association, or to its members.

## VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	The association had administered funds since the statue is dedicated ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων, <i>ek ton idion</i> .
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## IX. MEMBERSHIP

iv. Status	Following Wilhelm 1887, the <i>philoteimoi</i> are a group of men who received special honours from the city or from another group. If so, the Cyrenican <i>philoteimoi</i> must belong to the civic elite.
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## XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	Possible relations with provincial authorities, but the statue of Septimius Severus on a chariot may also be an initiative of the city.
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## XII. NOTES

### i. Comments

The dating of the inscription is based on the imperial title of Septimius Severus. As the emperor bears the title of *Arabicus* and *Abiabenicus*, the inscription must be dated after AD 195. But the third block on the right is missing, and other titles may have been inscribed on it. Strong 1972-1973 suggested for instance to add *Parthicus*, but Reynolds, in Ward-Perkins and Gibson 1976-1977, rejects Strong's hypothesis: if Septimius Severus was *Parthicus* in the inscription, then it would date after 198, and at that time Caracalla should have been mentioned as co-emperor, which is not the case. Laronde 1983 also considered a date after 198 because Septimius Severus is *invictus*, a title which he bears on coins only after 198. Stucchi 1988 suggested a date around AD 202/3 because he thought that the battle depicted on the relief was the battle of Seleucid (AD 198): he added 4 to 5 years, which fit with the supposed duration of the Propylaeum's construction.

The most probable and the most widely accepted date is AD 195-198.

### iii. Bibliography

Bonacasa, N., and Ensoli, S. (2000), *Cirene*. Milan.  
Bonanno, A. (1976-1977), 'The Severan Commemorative Relief at Cyrene. The Portraiture', *LibStud* 8: 19-25.  
Laronde, A. (1983), 'Septime Severe et Cyrène', *BSAF*: 59-70.  
Poland, F. (1909), *Geschichte des griechischen Vereinswesens*. Leipzig.  
Strong, D.E. (1972-1973), 'Septimius Severus at Lepcis Magna and Cyrene', *LibStud* 4: 27-35.  
Stucchi, S. (1975), *Architettura cirenaica*. Rome.  
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Stucchi, S. (1988), 'Il fregio del propileo severiano di Cirene e la presa di Seleucia nel 198 d.C.', *Scienze dell'antichità* 2: 497-512.  
Ward-Perkins, J.B., and Gibson S. (1976-1977), 'The Market-Theatre at Cyrene', *LibAnt* 13-14: 363-75.  
Wilhelm, A. (1887), *AAWW* 11. (*non vidi*, referred to in SEG 35: 1717)

## XIII. EVALUATION

### i. Private association

Certain

#### Note

Poland 1909: 411-3 speaks about the *philoteimoi*.  
Comparisons with inscriptions from Tomis (I.Tomis II 125 and 156) and Istros (I.Tomis I 193, 223, 229).  
The word *philoteimoi* in Greek can sometimes be the equivalent of the Latin *munerarii* (editors of gladiatorial combats), although the context of the Severan Propylaeum in Cyrene does not fit with this interpretation.