

CAPInv. 1335: to politeuma ton Kreton

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Egypt
ii. Nome	Arsinoites (00)

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	τὸ πολίτευμα τῶν Κρητῶν (P.Tebt. I 32, l. 17)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>to politeuma ton Kreton</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	145 BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Ethnic:	<i>Kretes, Cretans</i>
iii. Descriptive terms	<i>πολίτευμα, politeuma</i>	
Note	<i>politeuma</i> : P.Tebt. I 32, ll. 9, 17.	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	P.Tebt. I 32 (Pauni = 26 June – 25 July 145 BC)
Note	The text is also published in Chrest.Wilck. 448.
Online Resources	P.Tebt. I 32 TM 45139 AGRW ID 20345
i.a. Source type(s)	Papyrological source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek correspondence regarding the inclusion of a new catoec into the fifth hipparchy. The man, Asklepiades, was member of the <i>politeuma</i> of the Cretans.

i.c. Physical format(s)	Papyrus
ii. Source(s) provenance	Found in mummy-cartonnage of crocodile 23.6 from the cemetery in Tebtynis.

VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	The members of the <i>politeuma</i> are collectively called ἄνδρες, <i>andres</i> , and (at least 500 of them) are said to have been granted membership or assigned (<i>epichoreo</i>) to the <i>politeuma</i> : ἀπὸ τῶν ἐπιχωρημένων τῷ πολιτεύματι τῶν Κρητῶν ἀνδρῶν φ, <i>apo ton epikechoremenon toi politeumati ton Kreton andron 500</i> (ll. 16-17).
iv. Officials	The two men, Soso and Aigyptos, who wrote to the responsible for the assignment of land to the cavalry catoecs in order to have the new catoec Asklepiades registered, are said to have been chosen by the <i>politeuma</i> : παρὰ Σώσου κ[αί] Αἰγύπτου τῶν δ[ι],[ι],[.....] [- ca.9 - προ]χειρισθέντων ὑπὸ τ[ο]ῦ πολιτεύμα[τος τῶν Κρητῶν], <i>para Sosou kai Aigyptou ton d... procheiristhenton hypo tou politeumatou ton Kreton</i> (ll. 8-9). It is unknown what their exact office within the <i>politeuma</i> was or whether they had been appointed ad hoc or were regular officials of the <i>politeuma</i> .

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	The <i>politeuma</i> had at least 500 members (l. 17), possibly more if we are to interpret the passage as indicating that 500 new members had been assigned to the <i>politeuma</i> (on top of its other members).
ii. Gender	Men
Note	The term ἄνδρες, <i>andres</i> (l. 17) to define their (newly welcomed) 500 members, the male names of the known members (Sosos, Aigyptos, and Asklepiades), and the military character of the group suggest that the members proper of the <i>politeuma</i> were men.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	The military character that the <i>politeuma</i> displays suggests that the members were adults. The five months old son of the new catoec Asklepiades is mentioned at the end of the text alongside his father: this is in order that he may be included into the cavalry catoecs (and possibly <i>politeuma</i> ?) once his time comes.
iv. Status	Asklepiades, the man newly entered into the catoecic cavalrymen of the Arsinoite and member of the <i>politeuma</i> of the Cretans, is said to be a Macedonian of the <i>ephodoi</i> (a sort of elite police-force: Clarysse and Thompson 2006: II 174-5) of the division of the nome (l. 18: Μακεδὼν τῶν κατὰ μερίδα ἐφόδων, <i>Makedon ton kata merida ephodon</i>): this was a military indication, not a real ethnic designation (anymore). Upon being included in the catoecic cavalrymen, Asklepiades relinquished his status and duties of <i>ephodos</i> . The man owned a parcel of (at least) 24 arourai of land around the village of Kerkeosiris (Ars.). The members of the <i>politeuma</i> of the Cretans seem to belong to the army. Some of them were also probably active in the Ptolemaic administration or at all events they appear to be very well connected with local officials, especially those involved with military men (Sosos and Aigyptos seem to have had a saying in the affairs of the catoecic cavalrymen (ll. 13-14), they were in familiar terms with their <i>episates</i> and <i>grammateus</i> and wrote to their man responsible for the assignment of land – unlike Honigman 2003: 74, I do not think that they had administrative powers, by right of being officials of the <i>politeuma</i>).
vi. Proper names and physical features	Σώσος καὶ Αἰγύπτος Ἀσκληπιάδην Πτολεμαίου Μακεδόνα τῶν κατὰ μερίδα ἐφόδων ... ἔστιν δὲ ὡς (ἐτῶν) κβ βραχὺς μελίχρ(ως) κλαστὸς

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	As the present papyrus was found in Tebtynis and Asklepiades, the newly-appointed catoecic cavarlyman, had his land around the village of Kerkeosiris, it seems certain that <i>politeuma</i> of the Cretans was based in the Arsinoite nome. The exact location, however, is difficult to establish. On this <i>politeuma</i> , see (with caution) Launey 1949-50: II 1068-72.
iii. Bibliography	Clarysse, W., and Thompson, D. J. (2006), <i>Counting the People in Hellenistic Egypt</i> . Cambridge. Honigman, S. (2003), 'Politeumata and ethnicity in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt', <i>AncSoc</i> 33: 61-102. Launey, M. (1949-50), <i>Recherches sur les armées hellénistiques</i> . Paris.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	The <i>politeuma</i> of the Cretans shows a well-organised structure, with the appointment of officials or representatives who can take care of the interests of the group and of its members collectively and individually in front of the authority and the administration. It could welcome new members into its ranks and was locally based in the Arsinoite. The <i>politeuma</i> gathered men of army, originally presumably of Cretan origin (how this ethnic base remained unchanged over time is difficult to say in the present case). In this case the <i>politeuma</i> does not show signs of having powers beyond its membership, as it is the case for other <i>politeumata</i> (cf. CAPIInv. 1370). It is probable that this <i>politeuma</i> was and functioned as a private association; however, a more official character of the group in the social structure of the catoecs cannot be excluded.