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CAPInv. 1517: **geloiastai**

I. LOCATION

i.	**Geographical area**	Egypt
ii.	**Nome**	Alexandria (L00)
iii.	**Site**	Alexandria

II. NAME

i.	**Full name (original language)**	γελοιασταί (Ath. 246c)
ii.	**Full name (transliterated)**	*geloiastai*

III. DATE

i.	**Date(s)**	221 - 203 BC

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii.	**Name elements**	Theophoric:	*geloiastai* 'buffoons, jesters' (see LSJ s.v.), likely deriving from γέλως, *gelos* 'laughter' (with possible connection with an epithet of Dionysus: see Tondriau 1946: 153).
		Other:	*geloiastai* 'buffoons, jesters' (see LSJ s.v.), likely deriving from γέλως, *gelos* 'laughter' (with possible connection with an epithet of Dionysus: see Tondriau 1946: 153).

V. SOURCES

i.	**Source(s)**	Ath. 246c
	Note	Athenaeus is quoting Ptolemy son of Agesarchus, writer of a *History of Philopator*: FGrH 161 F 2.

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	Online Resources	Ath. 246c
i.a.	**Source type(s)**	Literary source(s)
i.b.	**Document(s) typology & language/script**	Greek, Athaeneus's The Learned Banqueters (*Deipnosophistae*).

VII. ORGANIZATION

i.	**Founder(s)**	King Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203 BC).
	Gender	Male
iii.	**Members**	The members of the club are called συμπόται, *sympotai.*

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii.	**Gender**	Men
	Note	Given the terminology used and activities implied by it, it seems likely that the members were men only.

X. ACTIVITIES

ii.	**Meetings and events**	On the basis of the common name *sympotai*, it seems that the main activity of the club was drinking.

XII. NOTES

i.	**Comments**	It is stated in the text that drinking-buddies were being gathered from all over Alexandria by King Ptolemy IV and named *geloiastai*: συμπότας ... τῷ βασιλεῖ συνάγεσθαι ἐξ ἁπάσης τῆς πόλεως, οὓς προσαγορεύεσθαι γελοιαστάς, *sympotas ... to basilei synagesthai ex hapases tes poleos, hous prosagoreuesthai geloiastas*.
iii.	**Bibliography**	Tondriau, J. (1946), 'Les thiases dionysiaques royaux de la court ptolémaïque', *CE* 21: 149-171.

XIII. EVALUATION

i.	**Private association**	Certain
	Note	The fact that the group of fellow-drinkers had a proper name (*geloiastai*) points towards the fact that the group was well-established and organised as a private association.
ii.	**Historical authenticity**	One may wonder the reliability of the source and the actual existence of this club.