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CAPInv. 1659: U-WAM-027

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Mysia
iii. Site	Pergamon

II. NAME

i. Association with unknown name	U-WAM-027
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III. DATE

i. Date(s)	ii AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

iii. Descriptive terms	σύστημα, <i>systema</i> συνέδριον, <i>synedrion</i>
Note	<i>systema</i> [a l. 8], bc l. 10 <i>synedrion</i> bc l. 5

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	MDAI (A) 32 (1907), 293-6 no. 18 (Hadrianic times)
Note	Hepding (1907: 294-5) compares the letterforms to those in I.Pergamon 374 and MDAI (A) 27 (1902), 78 no. 2, and he dates the inscription to Hadrianic times.
Online Resources	MDAI (A) 32 (1907), 293-6 no. 18
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Poorly preserved text setting out the entrance criteria to a group.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Four fragments of a marble stele, partly preserved. The stele is 49 cm wide, whereas its height cannot be determined. Preserved height: 187 cm.

ii. Source(s) provenance

Fragments a, c and d were found in the 'Kellerstadion' in the gymnasium of Pergamon

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains

The gymnasium at Pergamon lies near the Sanctuary of Hera on the south slopes of the Acropolis. Built probably in the reign of Eumenes II (197-159 BC) it extended over three terraces, encompassing an area of more than 20,000 sqm.

VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members

μετέχοντες, *metechontes* (bc, ll. 7-8)

iv. Officials

γραμματεὺς, *grammateus*, d ll. 5-7

In d ll. 5 and 7 the *grammateus* is further specific as τὸ β', *to b*, a phrase that could indicate that the office of the *grammateus* was annual and the current *grammateus* was holding his second tenure in office.

The participle ἐπιμεληθέντων, *epimelethenton* (d l. 4) may refer to past *epimeletes* in office but it may also refer to *ad hoc* officials assuming specific duties. Due to the fragmentary state of preservation the precise nature of the *epimeletai* cannot be elucidated any further.

vi. Laws and rules

Fragments bc of the stele (bc ll. 1-15) list the admission criteria for new members, which seems to fall into different categories. As the stele is mutilated, only a part of the admission criteria has been preserved.

All categories underwent a δοκιμασία, *dokimasia* (bc ll. 4, 8), yet what seems to differ are the admission criteria as well as the entrance fee (εἰσληύσιον, *eiselysion*, bc ll. 8-9):

- If more than one candidates are competing for one place, then the issue should be settled by vote (διαψηφοφορεῖσθαι, *diapsephophoreisthai*, bc ll. 6-7).

- If the father has been a member for at least five years, then his son must pay 50 denaria (bc ll. 7-10).

- If the son enter at the same time as the father or if the father is a member for less than five years, then the son must pay the fee of non-members, namely a fee paid by those whose father was not a member (bc, ll. 10-14). According to Hepding (1907: 295) this rule is attested for the first time in this inscription.

On an occasion, which cannot be determined due to the nature of the evidence, two thirds of members must be present (bc ll. 3-4).

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds

Members paid an entrance fee (see VII.vi)

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender

Men

Note

See below IX.iii

iii. Age

Children
Adults

Note	The text refers to fathers (<i>pateres</i> , bc ll. 9, 10, 11, 13) and sons (υἱοὶ, <i>hyioi</i> , bc ll. 7). The age of the sons is further determined in line 11 as παῖδες, <i>paides</i> .
v. Relations	In light of the terminology used to define the members, kinship relations are apparent (see above IX.iii)

X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events	The group would convene to carry out the <i>dokimasia</i> (examination) of new members.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The term <i>systema</i> normally designates the <i>gerousia</i> in Greek cities (Poland 1909: 158; Giannakopoulos 2008).
iii. Bibliography	Giannakopoulos, N. (2008), <i>Ο θεσμός της γερουσίας των ελληνικών πόλεων κατά τους ρωμαϊκούς χρόνους. Οργάνωση και λειτουργίες</i> . Thessalonike. Hepding, H. (1907), 'Die Inschriften. Die Arbeiten zu Pergamon 1904-1905', <i>MDAI (A)</i> 32: 241-377.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible
Note	Although the name of the group is not preserved, the admission criteria and the internal hierarchy (e.g. <i>grammateus</i>) point to a formally organized body. What seems to pose some problems is the identification of the group with corporate bodies that present a similar organization and structure. Hepding (1907: 294-5), taking into account the findspot of the inscription (gymnasium of Pergamon) and the absence of any mention to the <i>neoi</i> , argued that this text should be linked to the <i>gerousia</i> of Pergamon, something that can be further supported by the attestation of the terms <i>synedrion</i> and <i>systema</i> in the text. Both terms can designate the <i>gerousia</i> (Giannakopoulos 2008). If the text sets out the admission criteria for the Pergamene <i>gerousia</i> centered around the gymnasium, then we are dealing with an official body of the city of Pergamon and not with a private association.