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CAPInv. 1918: **xystos**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Southern Italy with Sicily
ii. Region	Puglia
iii. Site	Taras

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ξυστός (Gasperini 1984: 476-9, pl. LXXIX, 1-2, ll. 8-9)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>xystos</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	200 - 250 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

iii. Descriptive terms	ξυστός, <i>xystos</i>
Note	<i>xystos</i> : Gasperini 1984: 476-9, ll. 8-9

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Gasperini 1984: 476-9, pl. LXXIX, 1-2 (AD 200-250)
Note	See also: SEG 34: 1022
Online Resources	SEG 34: 1022
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek funerary inscription of M. Aurelius Serenus <i>qui et</i> Heliodorus. Characteristic letters: lunatae and apicatae.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Seven fragments of a marble plaque

ii. Source(s) provenance

Taras

VII. ORGANIZATION

iv. Officials

Grammateus

The deceased M. Aurelius Serenus *qui et* Heliodorus is mentioned as the *grammateus xystou* (ll. 8-9).

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender

Men

Note

As the *xystos* includes athletes, its members are men.

iv. Status

M. Aurelius Serenus *qui et* Heliodorus probably originated from Alexandria, as *Alexandreu*s appears first among the citizenships of other towns, which he acquired. As Gasperini 1984: 478, mentions, famous athletes of this period often acquired honorary citizenship of several towns (see examples given by Gasperini). M. Aurelius Serenus *qui et* Heliodorus was apparently *bouleutes* of his home-town as well as of Elis and Delphi and citizen of Sparta. Parallels show that there is a division between the honorary citizenships and the (honorary ?) office of *bouleutes* of these athletes.

XI. INTERACTION

ii. Interaction abroad

The fact that the *grammateus xystou* mentioned in our inscription had acquired the citizenship of various poleis, shows that the officeholder was an individual enjoying a world-wide fame.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments

Gasperini 1984 reads Λακεδαιμόνιος γραμματεὺς ξυστοῦ, *Lakedaimonios grammateus xystou* (ll. 6-9), and interprets accordingly that the deceased was a *grammateus* of the local *xystos* of Sparta. This interpretation is reproduced in SEG 34: 1022. However the wording of Λακεδαιμόνιος γραμματεὺς ξυστοῦ, *Lakedaimonios grammateus xystou*, sounds somehow strange and has no parallels. It would be perhaps more rational to read the inscription as ...Ἀλεξανδρεὺς καὶ Ἡλῖος καὶ Δελφὸς βουλευτὴ[ς] καὶ Λα[κ]εδαιμόνιος, γραμματεὺς ξυστοῦ... , ...*Alexandreu*s kai *Elios* kai *Delphos* *bouleuth[s]* kai *La[k]**edaimonios*, *grammateus xystou*... (ll. 3-9). It is thus to be understood that the individual was *bouleutes* of Alexandria, Elis and Delphi, citizen of Sparta and *grammateus xystou*. The latter is to be understood as the "oecumenical *xystos*" and not the local Spartan one. Cf. entry "sympas *xystos*", [CAPInv. 1485](#).

iii. Bibliography

Gasperini, L. (1984), 'Un buleuta alessandrino a Taranto', in *Alessandria e il mondo ellenistico-romano: studi in onore di A. Adriani*, Roma 1984: 476-9.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Possible

Note

If the oecumenical *xystos* is to be understood, cf. comments of [CAPInv. 1485](#)