

CAPInv. 224: **hoi Leeitai**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Peloponnese with Adjacent Islands
ii. Region	Argolid
iii. Site	Argos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	οἱ Λεεῖται (IG IV 607, l. 1)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hoi Leeitai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	l. i BC - m. i AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Professional:	<i>hoi Leeitai</i> : The term is derived from the verb λειόω (<i>leioo</i> , "make smooth"). It refers perhaps to stone-cutters or wood-cutters.
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG IV 607
Online Resources	IG IV 607
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek honorary inscription erected by the <i>Leeitai</i> for L. Cornelius Ingenuus

i.c. Physical format(s)	Unknown. Both A. Boeckh (CIG 1136) and M. Fraenkel (IG IV) know the text only from Fourmont's notes.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Argos, found near the church of Hagia Paraskevi

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	If the term <i>leeitai</i> is correctly associated with a professional guild (perhaps of stone-cutters or wood-cutters), then the group was formed by men.

X. ACTIVITIES

iv. Honours/Other activities	The <i>Leeitai</i> honour L. Cornelius Ingenuus, cf. XII.i: Comments.
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XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	As L. Cornelius Ingenuus who is honoured by the <i>Leeitai</i> , is an outstanding individual, it seems that his honour by the <i>Leeitai</i> had a resonance in the polis of Argos.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>L. Cornelius Ingenuus honoured by the <i>Leeitai</i> is an outstanding individual known from a further inscription which was erected in his honour by the polis of Argos (see Charneux 1953: 400-2). L. Cornelius Ingenuus was <i>gymnasiarchos</i> of the three gymnasia of the town, <i>agoranomos</i>, <i>grammateus</i>, twice <i>tamias</i> and had received the so called "τιμαί ἀγωναθητικάί" (<i>timai agonotheitikai</i>, cf. Charneux 1953: 401-2; comments in <i>BE</i> 1955: no. 102 and Pleket 1957: 141-3). On L. Cornelius Ingenuus see also Rizakis, Zoumbaki and Kantirea 2001: 186, ARG 111.</p> <p>The fact that professional associations are attested in Argos in the Roman period, shows the economic dynamic of the town. It is remarkable that names of Argive <i>komai</i> and <i>phratrai</i> are associated by certain scholars with craftsmen (e.g. Σμυρεῖδα[ι], <i>Smireida[i]</i>, cf. Fraenkel, commentary of IG IV 530, "qui smyride utuntur", Poland 1909: 118 "...Σμυρεῖδαι von Argos ... Arbeiter in Metall, die das Glätten desselben betreiben") or with further occupational groups, <i>sodalicia</i>, as Fraenkel states in the commentary of IG IV 530, Πωλαθέες (<i>Polathees</i>, "nutritores equorum"), Ὑάδαι (<i>Hyadai</i>, "nutritores suum"), Κερκάδαι (<i>Kerkadai</i>, "textores"). Remarks on these assumptions and on Argive civic subdivisions see Vollgraff 1909: 171-200.</p> <p>For the civic organization of <i>komai</i> and <i>phratrai</i> of Argos see Piérart 1981: 611-3; Piérart 1983: 267-75; Charneux 1984: 207-27; Jones 1987: 114-5.</p>
ii. Poland concordance	Poland Z 6

iii. Bibliography

- Charneux, P. (1984), 'Phratrïes et Kômai d'Argos', *BCH* 108.1: 207-27.
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Jones, N.F. (1987), *Public Organization in Ancient Greece: A Documentary Study*. Philadelphia.
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Pleket, H. (1957), 'Three epigraphic notes', *Mnemosyne* 10: 141-3.
Poland, F. (1909), *Geschichte des griechische Vereinswesens*, Leipzig.
Rizakis, A.D, Zoumbaki, S. and Kantirea, M. (2001), *Roman Peloponnese I. Roman Personal Names in their Social Context (Achaia, Arcadia, Argolis, Corinthia and Eleia)*. Athens.
Vollgraaf, W. (1909), 'Inscriptions d'Argos', *BCH* 33: 171-200.
Waltzing, J.P. (1899), *Etude historique sur les corporations professionnelles chez les Romains depuis les origines jusqu'à la chute de l'Empire d'Occident*. vol. 3. Louvain: 68, no. 187.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Probable

Note

The fact that *leeitai* seem to be identified as a professional group which honours an outstanding figure of the Argive public life, renders the possibility to regard them as a private association probable. However, as names of Argive *komai* and *phratrai* are associated by certain scholars with craftsmen, we have to maintain some reservations.

ii. Historical authenticity

The epigraphic evidence renders historical authenticity of the association indisputable.