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CAPInv. 291: to plethos ton machairophoron

I. LOCATION

i.	**Geographical area**	Egypt
ii.	**Nome**	Memphites (L01)
iii.	**Site**	Memphis

II. NAME

i.	**Full name (original language)**	τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαχαιροφόρων (I.Prose 25, l. 6)
ii.	**Full name (transliterated)**	*to plethos ton machairophoron*

III. DATE

i.	**Date(s)**	112 / 111 BC

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii.	**Name elements**	Professional:	*machairophoroi*
iii.	**Descriptive terms**	πλῆθος, *plethos*	
	Note	*plethos*: I.Prose 25, l. 6	

V. SOURCES

i.	**Source(s)**	I.Prose 25 (112/1 BC)
	Note	Other editions are: OGIS 737, SB V 8929 (with SEG XX 643).
	Online Resources	I.Prose 25 TM 6421 AGRW ID 20335
i.a.	**Source type(s)**	Epigraphic source(s)

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i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek honorific decree of the *politeuma* and *hoi apo tes poleos Idumaioi*.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Limestone stele.

VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	The members of the group were military men, part of the guard *machairophoroi*.
iv. Officials	The ἱερεὺς τοῦ πλήθους τῶν μαχαιροφόρων, *hiereus tou plethous ton machairophoron*: l. 6.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	Being a military association, the group was made up of men only.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	The military character of the association points to an adult membership.
iv. Status	Dorion, the honorary priest of the association (l. 6: according to Thompson Crawford 1984, these *machairophoroi* corresponded to the *politeuma* which, together with *hoi apo tes poleos Idoumaioi*, set up the present text to honour the man: cf. CAPInv. 163), bore the court title of *syngenes* and was *strategos*. Dorion is known from other texts in hieroglyphic: he was also priest of Horos, Onnophris, and Osiris; his mother was a priestess of Horos of Athribis and therefore probably a hellenising Egyptian from a priestly family (cf. Thompson Crawford 1984: 1070-1, Thompson 2012: 95-6, and Mooren 1975: no. 093).
vi. Proper names and physical features	Δωρίων ὁ συγγενὴς καὶ στρατηγὸς καὶ ἱερεὺς τοῦ πλήθους τῶν μαχαιροφόρων

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	According to the interpretation by Thompson Crawford 1984, the *plethos ton machairophoron* corresponded in fact to the *politeuma* which, together with the *hoi apo tes poleos Idoumaioi*, set up the present text to honour Dorion, the *hiereus* of the *plethos ton machairophoron* (cf. CAPInv. 163).
iii. Bibliography	Thompson Crawford, D. J. (1984), 'The Idumaeans of Memphis and the Ptolemaic Politeumata', in *Atti del XVII Congresso Internazionale di Papirologia*, Napoli: 1069-75.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	It seems probable that the *plethos ton machairophoron* was a private association, which gathered together men active in the army. However, there cannot be excluded the possibility that the group was not an independent private association within the army, but was in fact the military unit of *machairophoroi* itself, which had a priest. If the interpretation by Thompson Crawford 1984 is correct, the *plethos ton machairophoron* would be without doubts a private association and would in fact correspond to the *politeuma* which, together with the *hoi apo tes poleos Idoumaioi*, set up the present text to honour Dorion: cf. CAPInv. 163.