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CAPInv. 427: **he speira**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Lydia
iii. Site	Attaleia

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἡ σπεῖρα (TAM V.1 817, l. 7)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>he speira</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	198 / 199 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

i. Name in other forms	cf. οἱ συγγενεῖς, <i>hoi syngeneis</i> , (TAM V.1 817, l. 9)	
ii. Name elements	Cultic:	The word means 'religious college', but is mostly related to Dionysos
iii. Descriptive terms	σπεῖρα, <i>speira</i> , cf. οἱ συγγενεῖς, <i>hoi syngeneis</i>	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	TAM V.1 817 (198/9 AD)
Note	Ed.pr. Keil and von Premerstein 1911: 72-3 no. 152 Cf. SEG 17: 535
Online Resources	TAM V.1 817

i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Funerary inscription for a <i>narthekephoros</i> (TAM V.1 817, ll. 7-8) dedicated by his family, by the <i>speira</i> and by his association colleagues, <i>syngeneis</i> .
i.c. Physical format(s)	Funerary altar
ii. Source(s) provenance	Attaleia

VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	The members of the association are called <i>syngeneis</i> . For the meaning of this term as members of a <i>syngeneia</i> cf. comment to TAM V2, 1256. In this case, the <i>syngeneia</i> would be the <i>speira</i> .
iv. Officials	The funerary inscription is dedicated to a <i>ναρθεκόφορος</i> , <i>narthekephoros</i> , i.e. the bearer of the stalk used as a thyrsos in the mysteries of Dionysos. He was a high official.
viii. Obligations	The members of the association dedicate a funerary altar to their <i>narthekephoros</i> together with his family. The association probably had funerary obligations towards its members.

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	The association surely had funds to accomplish its funerary obligations.
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X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The <i>speira</i> worshipped Dionysos, though there is no worshipping evidence concerning this <i>speira</i> , apart from the fact that it had a <i>narthekephoros</i> .
Deities worshipped	Dionysos

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	The <i>narthekephoros</i> was also <i>πρωτοκομήτης</i> , <i>protokometes</i> , ‘the first of the village’, what invites to assume that he had some official charges or was a benefactor of the community.
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XII. NOTES

iii. Bibliography	de Hoz, M.-P. (1999), <i>Die Lydischen Kulte im Lichte der griechischen Inschriften</i> . Bonn: no. 15.1. Keil, J., and von Premerstein, A. (1911), <i>Bericht über eine zweite Reise in Lydien ausgeführt 1908</i> , (Denkschriften Akad. Wien Band 54.2). Vienna.
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XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

The Dionysos *speirai* are private associations, though they often had an important public sphere.