

Author: BENEDIKT ECKHARDT

CAPInv. 587: askopoioi

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	The Near East and Beyond
ii. Region	Arabia
iii. Site	Bosra

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἄσκοποιοί (IGLS XIII.1 9158, l. 1)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>askopoioi</i>

III. DATE

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

ii. Name elements	Professional:	<i>askopoioi</i>
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IGLS XIII.1 9158 (ii - vi AD) IGLS XIII.1 9159 (ii - vi AD) IGLS XIII.1 9160 (ii - vi AD)
Online Resources	IGLS XIII.1 9158 IGLS XIII.1 9159 IGLS XIII.1 9160
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Seat inscriptions in Greek
ii. Source(s) provenance	Theatre of Bosra

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The date is unclear. The theatre was built in the second century AD (Retzleff 2003: 122-3), but the <i>terminus ante quem</i> is insecure given the fact that a professional association (of goldsmiths) is attested at Bosra as late as AD 539/40.
iii. Bibliography	Retzleff, A. (2003) 'Near Eastern Theatres in Late Antiquity', <i>Phoenix</i> 57: 115-38. Sartre, M. (1982) <i>Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie, Tome XIII fasc. 1: Bosra</i> . Paris.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	The parallels from other cities in the empire suggest that a professional group with fixed seats in the theatre was organized as a professional association.