

CAPInv. 640: U-WAM-011

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Bithynia
iii. Site	Nikaia

II. NAME

i. Association with unknown name	U-WAM-011
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III. DATE

i. Date(s)	131 / 132 AD
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	I.Iznik 1206 (131 / 132 AD)
Online Resources	I.Iznik 1206
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Honorary inscription in Greek set up by the <i>demos</i> of <i>Mossyneanon</i> and <i>Synlantenon</i> for Okktaios (i.e. Oktavios).
i.c. Physical format(s)	Pedimental stele with <i>akroteria</i> ; above the inscription a laurel wreath.
ii. Source(s) provenance	The inscription was found at Kizildere near Ugancilar in the area of Iznik.

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	The title βεννάχης, <i>bennaches</i> (l. βεννάρχης, <i>bennarches</i>), attributed to Okktaios (Il. 9-10) may indicate leadership of a group of devotees to Zeus Bennios (see Şahin 1978; Drew-Bear and Naour 1991: 1956-1961 and 1987-1991; Schwabl 1999; Fernoux 2004: 347; Adak, Akyürek Şahin and Güneş 2008: 81-82).
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The inscription is dated to the 15th year of Hadrian's principate. <i>Bennos</i> is a term denoting a religious association. If the term <i>bennaches ek progonon</i> in our inscription corresponds to a leader of such an association, the latter was devoted to the cult of the fertility god Zeus Bennios (see Şahin 1978; Drew-Bear and Naour 1991: 1956-1961 and 1987-1991; Schwabl 1999; Adak, Akyürek Şahin and Güneş 2008: 81-82). In assuming the post of <i>bennarches</i>, Okktaios apparently carried on a family tradition. The honours and the title <i>euergetes dia biou</i> attributed to him by the <i>demos</i> of <i>Mossyneanon</i> and <i>Synlantenon</i> indicate that he was a prominent local figure.
iii. Bibliography	Adak, M., Akyürek Şahin, N.E., and Güneş, M.Y. (2008), 'Neue Inschriften im Museum von Bolu (Bithynion/Klaudiupolis)', <i>Gephyra</i> 5: 73-120. Drew-Bear, T. and Naour, C. (1990), 'Divinités de Phrygie', <i>ANRW</i> II.18.3: 1907-2044. Fernoux, H.-L. (2004), <i>Notables et elites des cités de Bithynie aux époques hellénistique et romaine (IIIe siècle av. J.-C. – IIIe siècle ap. J.-C.). Essai d'histoire sociale</i>. Lyon. Şahin, S. (1978), 'Zeus Bennios' in S. Şahin, E. Schwertheim, and J. Wagner (eds.), <i>Studien zur Religion und Kultur Kleinasien. Festschrift für Friedrich Karl Dörner zum 65. Geburtstag am 28. Februar 1976</i>. 2 vols, Leiden: 771-790. Schwabl, H. (1999), 'Zum Kult des Zeus in Kleinasien (II). Der phrygische Zeus Bennios und Verwandtes', <i>AAntHung</i> 39: 345-54.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible
Note	<i>Bennarches</i> may be associated with leadership of a <i>bennos</i>. However, this title alone does not necessarily prove the existence of an organized group (though the specification <i>ek progonon</i> points towards the direction of a sustained cult); it may simply refer to presidency over the cult or a festival (cf. <i>BE</i> 1970: no. 305).