

CAPInv. 807: syngenia (l. syngeneia)

I. LOCATION

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

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	συνγένια (l. συγγένεια, I.Iznik 1512, ll. 4-5)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>syngenia</i> (l. syngeneia)

III. DATE

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

iii. Descriptive terms	συνγένια, <i>syngenia</i> (l. συγγένεια, <i>syngeneia</i>)
Note	<i>syngeneia</i> : I.Iznik 1512, ll. 4-5

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	I.Iznik 1512 (ii - iii AD)
Online Resources	I.Iznik 1512
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Dedication in Greek to Zeus Pantokrator.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Marble altar with bust of Zeus Pantokrator.
ii. Source(s) provenance	The inscription was found at Bilecic in the area of Iznik.

VII. ORGANIZATION

viii. Obligations	On possible contributions, see below in field XII.i: Comments.
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VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

ii. Realty	The altar dedicated by the <i>syngeneia</i> probably belonged to the group.
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X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The altar dedicated to Zeus Pantokrator by the <i>syngeneia</i> following the instructions received by the god (I.Iznik 1512, ll. 3-4: [κ]ατὰ καίλευσιν τοῦ Θεοῦ, [<i>k]ata kaileusin tou Th[e]ou</i>) suggests that the group of relatives performed cultic activities addressed to that deity. The dedication possibly followed or anticipated a benefaction perceived to have been provided by the god.
Deities worshipped	Zeus Pantokrator

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The provenance of the inscription indicates that the group of relatives comprised residents of one of the villages attached to Nikaia. If the <i>syngeneia</i> was a formally established group, the cost of the altar may indicate the existence of a common treasury. However, there is no clear proof for that. The cost may have been covered from <i>ad hoc</i> contributions paid by the members of the group.
iii. Bibliography	Poland, F. (1909), <i>Geschichte des griechischen Vereinswesens</i> . Leipzig.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible
Note	On associations defined as <i>syngeneia</i> or with other correlated terms, see Poland 1909: 88. The dedication of the altar suggests lasting cultic activities on the part of the <i>syngeneia</i> . However, it cannot be established with certainty whether this term in our inscription corresponded to an organized association or was just used to denote a simple group of relatives which dedicated the altar.