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CAPInv. 855: **hoi en tei Kainei cheiristai**

I. LOCATION

i.	**Geographical area**	Egypt
ii.	**Nome**	Arsinoites (00)
iii.	**Site**	Kaine

II. NAME

i.	**Full name (original language)**	οἱ ἐν τῇι Κ̣αινῆι χειρισταί (P.Erasm. I 13, ll. 3-4)
ii.	**Full name (transliterated)**	*hoi en tei Kainei cheiristai*

III. DATE

i.	**Date(s)**	152 (?) BC

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii.	**Name elements**	Geographical:	*en tei Kainei*
		Professional:	*cheiristai*

V. SOURCES

i.	**Source(s)**	P.Erasm. I 13
	Online Resources	P.Erasm. I 13 TM 5057
i.a.	**Source type(s)**	Papyrological source(s)
i.b.	**Document(s) typology & language/script**	Receipt in Greek of an advance loan for the payment of transport-expenses, addressed to the *sitologos* of the *ergasterion* of the village of Oxyrhyncha (Ars.) from the officials of the *cheiristai* of the village of Kaine.

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i.c. Physical format(s)	Papyrus.

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	The group had a ἡγούμενος, hegoumenos (l. 3): he was called Sarapion, son of Belles; the man was also ὁρμοφύλακος τῆς Καινῆ(ς), *hormophylakos tes Kaines* (l. 2), harbour-master of the village of Kaine. The *hegoumenos* together with the other elders acknowledged receipt of the advance payment for the *cheiristai*'s services.
iv. Officials	On the basis of the wording Σαραπίων Βελλ̣ήο̣υς | ὁρμοφύλακος τῆς Καινῆ(ς) | ὁ ἡγούμενος τοῖς ἐν | τῆι Κ̣αινῆι χειρισταῖς | καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι προσβύτεροι, *Sarapion Belleous | hormophylakos tes Kaines | ho hegoumenos tois en | tei Kainei cheiristais | kai hoi alloi prosbyteroi* (ll. 1-5), it seems that the officials of the group were collectively called προσβύτεροι, i.e. πρεσβύτεροι, *presbyteroi*.

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	The group had funds available to them which were administered by (some of) their members, as they received a compensation for their services in the administration and organisation of the transport of tax-grain to Alexandria.
iii. Income	The *cheiristai*, administrators or administrative assistants active in the organisation of the transport of tax-grain to Alexandria, received payments for their services (l. 11: φόρετρον, phoretron). In the present case, they acknowledged receipt of an advance payment of twenty artabae of grain (ca 780 litres = ca 605 kg) for that payment, which they declared to return (or deduct from the *phoretron*) once the *phoretron* is paid to them. It is uncertain whether the group had other sources of income.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	Given the type of professional activity (financial administrators) in which the members of the group seem to have been involved it is likely that they were men only.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	It seems likely that the *cheiristai*, for the character of their employment, were adults.
iv. Status	The members shared the common occupation of being *cheiristai*, administrative assistants employed in the organisation of the transport of tax-grain to Alexandria, controlled by the state. Their leader, Sarapion, was also ὁρμοφύλακος τῆς Καινῆ(ς), *hormophylakos tes Kaines* (l. 2), harbour-master of the village of Kaine.
vi. Proper names and physical features	Σαραπίων Βελλ̣ήο̣υς | ὁρμοφύλακος τῆς Καινῆ(ς) | ὁ ἡγούμενος τοῖς ἐν | τῆι Κ̣αινῆι χειρισταῖς | καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι προσβύτεροι

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible

Note	Given the fact that the group had a collective identity, also linked to a geographical area, a well-organised structure with a leader and a governing body, funds, and a durable intent, it is possible that the group formed a private association (cf. also P.Erasm. II p. 12). However, it is not impossible that they in fact operated as a simple business company of administrative staff involved in the organisation of the transport of tax-grain.