

CAPInv. 975: **collegium fabrorum**

I. LOCATION

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

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	collegium fabrorum (Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.33)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>collegium fabrorum</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	109 - 111 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Professional:	<i>faber</i>
iii. Descriptive terms	<i>collegium</i>	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.33-34
Online Resources	Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.33-34
i.a. Source type(s)	Literary source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Letter in Latin addressed by Pliny (<i>Ep.</i> 10.33) to Trajan requesting permission to establish a <i>collegium fabrorum</i> in Nikomedeia, so as to provide this city with a mechanism to extinguish fires. In his response (<i>Ep.</i> 10.34) Trajan rejects this idea.

VII. ORGANIZATION

i. Founder(s)	The <i>collegium fabrorum</i> of Nikomedeia was planned to be founded by the provincial governor.
iii. Members	The term used for the members of the <i>collegium</i> under planning is <i>faber</i> (Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.33).
viii. Obligations	The obligations of the members would be to put out fires.
ix. Privileges	Pliny specifically refers to privileges that would be given to the members of the planned <i>collegium</i> . But their content remains unspecified (Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.33: <i>Ego attendam, ne quis nisi faber recipiatur, neve iure concesso in aliud utatur</i>). Cf. Cotter 1996: 82.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	According to Pliny's scheme the men recruited in the planned <i>collegium</i> would be no more than 150. Cf. Cotter 1996: 82.
iv. Status	Pliny assures the emperor that only <i>fabri</i> would participate in the <i>collegium</i> he was planning to establish (Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.33: <i>Ego attendam, ne quis nisi faber recipiatur...</i>). Cf. Cotter 1996: 82.

XI. INTERACTION

ii. Interaction abroad	The association would have been set up by the provincial Roman governor. On the supervisory role of the provincial governor in the whole scheme see below under field XII.i: Comments.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>Pliny claimed that he conceived the idea of forming a <i>collegium fabrorum</i> in Nikomedeia, because a great fire had destroyed private houses and public buildings, the city having no means to face this disaster. The assurances he gave to the emperor about the number, the privileges and the status of the persons that he would recruit obviously reflect Pliny's knowledge of Trajan's fears about the seditious character of private associations especially in Bithynia (cf. Sherwin-White 1966: 608), which are explicitly mentioned in the emperor's negative reply (Plin. <i>Ep.</i> 10.34). This reply however should not be taken as an indication of a general and lasting ban on the function of private associations. On the various issues raised by Pliny's letter see Sherwin-White 1966: 606-10; Cotter 1996: 82-3; Van Nijf 1997: 21-2 and 177-80; Arnaoutoglou 2002; de Ligt 2005: 245.</p> <p>Cf. CAPIInv. GR-41 , CAPIInv. GR-42, CAPIInv. GR-66.</p>
iii. Bibliography	<p>Arnaoutoglou, I. (2002), 'Roman Law and Collegia in Asia Minor', <i>RIDA</i> 49: 27-44.</p> <p>Cotter, W. (1996), 'The Collegian ad Roman Law: State Restrictions on Voluntary Associations', in J.S. Kloppenborg and S.G. Wilson (eds.), <i>Voluntary Associations in the Graeco-Roman World</i>. London, New York: 74-89.</p> <p>de Ligt, L. (2000) 'Governmental Attitudes towards Markets and Collegia' in E. Lo Cascio (ed.), <i>Mercati permanenti e mercati periodici nel Mondo Romano</i>. Bari: 237-52.</p> <p>Sherwin-White, A.N. (1966), <i>The Letters of Pliny. A Historical and Social Commentary</i>. Oxford.</p> <p>Van Nijf, O. (1997), <i>The Civic World of Professional Associations in the Roman East</i>. Amsterdam.</p>

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Possible

Note

On the basis of the terminology employed, it is certain that the planned *collegium* was a private association. However, it is doubtful whether the association was actually founded, given Trajan's reply.