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## CAPInv. 984: **he hiera gerousia tou Soteris [A]sklepiou**

### I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Central Greece
ii. Region	Boiotia
iii. Site	Hyettos

### II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἡ ἱερὰ γερουσία τοῦ Σωτήρος [Ἀ]σκληπιοῦ (IG VII 2808, ll. 2-3)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>he hiera gerousia tou Soteris [A]sklepiou</i>

### III. DATE

i. Date(s)	212 - m. iii AD
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### IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Theophoric:	Asklepios <i>Soter</i>
iii. Descriptive terms	γερουσία, <i>gerousia</i>	
Note	<i>gerousia</i> : IG VII 2808, l. 2	

### V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG VII 2808 (212 - m. iii AD)
Note	See also: Syll. <sup>2</sup> 740 Syll. <sup>3</sup> 1112 Oliver 1941: 143-6, no. 33, with picture (SEG 26: 527) Roesch 1982: 153-61, no. 21 (SEG 32: 459)
Online Resources	<a href="#">IG VII 2808</a> <a href="#">SEG 32: 459</a>

i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	A Greek inscription relating the decision by the <i>gerousia</i> to erect a stele recording (face A) gifts of land to the association by two <i>euergetai</i> , and (face B) regulations for the replacement of deceased members.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Stele of white marble broken at the bottom. The stone is inscribed at the front (face A) and on the right side (face B).
ii. Source(s) provenance	In the left hand side of the door of the church of Haghios Nikolaos south of the acropolis of ancient Hyettos.

## VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	A president (προστ[άτ]ης, <i>prost[at]es</i> ) is mentioned in ll. 32-33.
vi. Laws and rules	<p>It appears that the <i>gerousia</i> had a fixed number of members, and that the recruitment was taking place within the same family. Three different <i>scenarii</i> are envisaged to replace deceased members (these regulations all all written on the face B of the stone):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) if the deceased has several sons, the <i>gerousia</i> picks one of them. This seems to imply that if a member has only one son, the son becomes automatically a member;</li> <li>2) if the deceased members does not have any sons, the <i>gerousia</i> chooses a close relative. In that case a fee of 50 denarii is expected from the new member.</li> <li>3) if the deceased member has no sons nor close relatives, the <i>gerousia</i> chooses a new member who must be subjected to a process of <i>dokimasia</i> (δοκιμα[σθ]ῆ, <i>dokima[sth]ei</i>, face B ll. 9-10), and immediately pay a fee of 100 denarii to the <i>gerousia</i> (face B ll. 10-11: εἰ[σ]φερέτω εὐθέως, <i>ei[s]phetero eutheos</i>).</li> </ol>

## VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

ii. Realty	<p>The stele was to be erected ἐν κοινῷ, <i>en koinoi</i> indicating that the association owned some common grounds and/or a meeting place.</p> <p>One <i>euergetes</i>, Iulius Aristeas, gives to the association in the name of the god (i.e. Asklepios <i>Soter</i>) a small land measuring 8 plethra at a place called 'pig' (τόπω σὺί, <i>topoi sui</i>) (ll. 5-18). All four neighbours of the land are mentioned. The <i>gerousia</i> is expected to work the land, and to be the rightful proprietor for ever.</p> <p>Another <i>euergetes</i>, Aurelius Menekrates Eratonianos gives a vineyard measuring 6 plethra to the association for the same reason as the other benefactor, at a place called Hippobotos (ll. 19-31). All four neighbours are also mentioned.</p>
iii. Income	Income will be generated, among others, from the cultivation of the lands donated to the <i>gerousia</i> , and presumably from other lands.

## IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	On top of the president 8 members are listed. The stone is broken at the bottom, and one must assume that the list of members is not complete.
ii. Gender	Men
Note	No mention of women at any point, even in the regulations for the replacement of deceased members (see below). It appears that the <i>gerousia</i> was strictly reserved to men, and that membership was for life.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	Some adults at least are involved.

iv. <b>Status</b>	All members are <i>Aurelii</i> .
v. <b>Relations</b>	Some clear family links are displayed between members, such as a pair of brothers (ll. 34-35), and probably a father and son (ll. 35-6). Onomastic data hint that three generations of the same family were members.

## X. ACTIVITIES

i. <b>Assemblies</b>	The formula [ἐ]δοξεν τῇ ἱερᾷ γερουσίᾳ τοῦ Σωτῆρος [Ἀ]σκληπιοῦ, [ <i>e]doxen tei hierai gerousiai tou Soter [A]sklepios</i> (ll. 2-3) points to formal assemblies and decisions taken by the association.
iv. <b>Honours/Other activities</b>	Honorific stele mentioning the gift of land by two <i>euergetai</i> erected in the common ground.

## XII. NOTES

i. <b>Comments</b>	The fact that not all the people named in the inscription are <i>Aurelii</i> indicates that the inscription dates to shortly after 212 AD.
iii. <b>Bibliography</b>	Etienne, R., and Knoepfler, D. (1976), <i>Hyettos de Béotie et la chronologie des archontes fédéraux entre 250 et 171 avant J.-C.</i> . Paris: 15 and n. 50. Giannakopoulos, N. (2008), 'Ο Θεσμός της Γερουσίας των ελληνικών πόλεων κατά τους Ρωμαϊκούς Χρόνους: Οργάνωση και Λειτουργία. <i>Vanias</i> : 404, n. 882. Oliver, J.H. (1941), <i>The sacred gerusia</i> . Baltimore. Roesch, P. (1982), <i>Etudes béotiennes</i> . Paris.

## XIII. EVALUATION

i. <b>Private association</b>	Certain
<b>Note</b>	The terminology <i>gerousia</i> coupled with the connection to the cult of Asklepios Soter, which was a prominent cult in Hyettos, is indicative of a private association.