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CAPInv. 1152: Asianon speira

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Thrace
ii. Region	Euxine Coast
iii. Site	Dionysopolis

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Ἀσιανῶν σπεῖρα (IGBulg I ² 23, l. 5)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Asianon speira</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	222 - 235 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Ethnic:	<i>Asianoí</i> , i.e. colonists from Asia Minor.
iii. Descriptive terms	σπεῖρα, <i>speira</i>	
Note	<i>speira</i> : IGBulg I ² 23, l. 5	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IGBulg I ² 23 (AD 222-235)
Note	See also: Jaccottet II 53; AGRW 71
Online Resources	IGBulg I² 23 and AGRW ID 3236
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek dedication of a ἱερωνόμος, <i>hieronomos</i> to the σπεῖρα, <i>speira</i> of the Ἀσιανοὶ πρεσβ(ύτεροι), <i>Asianoī presb(ýteroi)</i> on behalf of the emperor Severus Alexander.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Stele of limestone.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Dionysopolis

VII. ORGANIZATION

iv. Officials	M. Aur(elios) Koure(s) ἱερωνόμος, <i>hieronomos</i> (for this office cf. I.Ilion 154).
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IX. MEMBERSHIP

iii. Age	Elders
Note	The abbreviation πρεσβ., <i>presb.</i> (l. 5) means quite certainly πρεσβ(ύτεροι), <i>presb(ýteroi)</i> .

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	Marshall (1907: 218 no. 1421, with pl. XXXIII), published a ring from Dionysopolis bearing the inscription συνόδου μυστικῆς Ταρσέων, <i>synodou mystikes Tarseon</i>, ‘mystic guild of Tarsians’, and suggested that the society would have used the ring for sealing official documents (p. xvii). Annelies Cazemier suggests (<i>per litt.</i>) a connection between this society of Tarsians and the <i>speira</i> of the <i>Asianoī</i>. This is highly probable. M. Aur(elios) Koure(s) ἱερωνόμος, <i>hieronomos</i>, is the same as the priest of the Ἄττεις, <i>Atteis</i> (CAPInv. 1157). From other examples of σπεῖραι, <i>speirai</i> and especially from the term Ἀσιανοί, <i>Asianoī</i>, which seems to be connected exclusively with Dionysiac associations, we can infer that we have to do with Dionysos.
ii. Poland concordance	Poland B 87 (ring from Dionysopolis; cf. XII.i: Comments, above)
iii. Bibliography	Jaccottet, A.-F. (2003), <i>Choirs Dionysos. Les associations dionysiaques ou la face cachée du dionysisme</i>. 2 vols. Zürich. Marshall, F.H. (1907), <i>Catalogue of the Fingerrings, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum</i>. London. Slavova, M. (2002), ‘Mystery Clubs in Bulgarian Lands in Antiquity’, <i>OAth</i> 27: 137-149, esp. 140 (about <i>speira</i>), 142 (about <i>koures</i>; but Koures is here a cognomen; cf. Jaccottet 2003: II.109) and 144 (text of the inscription).

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The terminology used points to a private association.