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## CAPInv. 1323: *eispoietoι adelphoi sebomenoi Theon Hypsiston*

### I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Black Sea Region
ii. Region	North coast of the Black Sea
iii. Site	Tanais

### II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	εἰσποιητοὶ ἀδελφοὶ σεβόμενοι Θεὸν Ὑψιστον (CIRB 1281, 1283, 1285)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>eispoietoι adelphoi sebomenoi Theon Hypsiston</i>

### III. DATE

i. Date(s)	211 - 230 AD
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### IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>sebomenoi Theon Hypsiston</i>
	Kinship-related:	<i>eispoietoι adelphoi</i>
	Theophoric:	<i>Theos Hypsistos</i>

### V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IGRR I 918 = CIRB 1281 (AD 211-227 or 233-235: king Rhescouporis II or III). IGRR I 920 = CIRB 1283 (AD 228). IGRR I 919 = CIRB 1285 (AD 225-227). CIRB 1286 (c. AD 220-230). Possibly also CIRB 1292 (c. AD 210-230).
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<b>Online Resources</b>	<a href="#">CIRB 1281</a> and <a href="#">AGRW ID 7912</a> <a href="#">CIRB 1283</a> and <a href="#">AGRW ID 1842</a> <a href="#">CIRB 1285</a> and <a href="#">AGRW ID 7937</a> <a href="#">CIRB 1286</a> and <a href="#">AGRW ID 7943</a> <a href="#">CIRB 1292</a>
<b>i.a. Source type(s)</b>	Epigraphic source(s)
<b>i.b. Document(s) typology &amp; language/script</b>	Greek dedications to Θεὸς Ὑψίστος, <i>Theos Hypsistos</i> .
<b>i.c. Physical format(s)</b>	<p>CIRB 1281: 24 joining pieces of a marble stele. The right part is lacking. Relief representing two eagles holding a wreath in their beaks.</p> <p>CIRB 1283: 68 joining pieces of a marble stele.</p> <p>CIRB 1285: 23 joining pieces of a marble stele + 2 joining pieces to be placed at the bottom. Relief representing two eagles holding a wreath in their beaks.</p> <p>CIRB 1286: 15 joining pieces of a marble stele + 3 not joining pieces belonging to the bottom of the stele. The beginning of the text is lacking.</p> <p>CIRB 1292: small fragment of a marble stele.</p>
<b>ii. Source(s) provenance</b>	Village of <i>Nedvigovka</i> , near Tanais (CIRB 1281, 1283, 1285 and 1292). Tanais (CIRB 1286).

## VII. ORGANIZATION

<b>ii. Leadership</b>	<p>One πρεσβύτερος, <i>presbyteros</i>, (an anonymous one) in CIRB 1285, l. 9; four πρεσβύτεροι, <i>presbyteroi</i>, (M[ - - ] M[ - - ], Nigosas Herakl[eid]ou, Ariston Menestratou and Kallig[ene]s Myronos) in CIRB 1283, ll. 8-10; at least six πρεσβύτεροι, <i>presbyteroi</i>, (Attias Ne[ - - ], Euschemon Menophilou, Pharno[xa]rthos Taureou, Herakl[eid]es Pappou, Strat[oneiko]s Mokko[u] and Herox[enos] Basilei[dou]) in CIRB 1286, ll. 5-11.</p> <p>In CIRB 1292 the word πρεσβύτερον, <i>presbyteron</i> (acc.) is restored.</p>
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## IX. MEMBERSHIP

<b>i. Number</b>	More than 23. The lists of members (in addition to the leader) give names with patronymics (some of them broken or completely lacking): 22 in CIRB 1281, ll. 10-21; 19 in CIRB 1283, ll. 11-19; at least 13 in CIRB 1285, ll. 10-16.
<b>ii. Gender</b>	Men
<b>Note</b>	The attested names are male names.
<b>iii. Age</b>	Elders
<b>Note</b>	See the references to πρεσβύτεροι, <i>presbyteroi</i> , as leader of the association (VII.ii).

## XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>The prosopography shows that several ἀδελφοί, <i>adelphoi</i>, are also mentioned as θιασεῖται, θιασῶται, <i>thias(e)itai</i>, <i>thiasotai</i>, in the records produced by the association described in <a href="#">CAPInv. 1324</a>, which is in honour of <i>Theos Hypsistos</i> too (list with references in Zavojkina 2012: 125-6; unfortunately not complete). The most spectacular cases are those of Sozomenos Styranou and Phourtas Agathou, θιασῶται, <i>thiasotai</i>, in AD 228, month of Loos (CIRB 1282, ll. 32 and 26 respectively), and only a month later (Γορπιαῖος) εἰσποιητοὶ ἀδελφοί, <i>eispoiētoi adelphoi</i> (CIRB 1283, ll. 11 and 18 respectively). Ustinova 1999: 186 argues that 'it is curious that nobody has ever appeared first as an <i>eispoiētos adelphos</i>, and later as a <i>thiasotes</i> but this is contradicted by the evidence (see Zavojkina 2012: 125-6, where for several persons membership among the <i>adelphoi</i> obviously precedes membership among the <i>thiasotai</i>. Nevertheless, Ustinova 1999: 186-7 might be right when she asks: 'Perhaps the status of an <i>eispoiētos adelphos</i> was considered more desirable, and their collegia a sort of élite?' On the other hand, it is noteworthy that πρεσβύτεροι, <i>presbyteroi</i>, are mentioned exclusively in our inscriptions concerning the εἰσποιητοὶ ἀδελφοί, <i>eispoiētoi adelphoi</i>. It is, therefore, to assume that the εἰσποιητοὶ ἀδελφοί, <i>eispoiētoi adelphoi</i>, were themselves πρεσβύτεροι, <i>presbyteroi</i>. As <i>thiasotai</i> they still remained members of their initial association but they also were promoted (age condition?) to members of the 'élite' association of εἰσποιητοὶ ἀδελφοί, <i>eispoiētoi adelphoi</i>.</p>
ii. Poland concordance	<p>Poland B 134 (CIRB 1281)  Poland B 135 (CIRB 1285)  Poland B 136 (CIRB 1283)  Poland B 140 (CIRB 1286)  Poland B 143 (CIRB 1292)</p>
iii. Bibliography	<p>Harland, P.A. (2014), <i>Greco-Roman Associations: Text, Translations, and Commentaries, II. North Coast of the Black Sea, Asia Minor</i>. Berlin, Boston: 32-9 no. 96.  Jajlenko, V.P. (2010): <i>Tysjacheletnij Bosporskij Rejkh [A Thousand Year Bosporan Reich (sic)]</i>. Moscow: 590-5.  Ustinova, Yu. (1991), 'The <i>Thiasoi</i> of Theos Hypsistos in Tanais', <i>HR</i> 31. no. 2: 150-80.  Ustinova, Yu. (1999), <i>The Supreme Gods of the Bosporan Kingdom. Celestial Aphrodite and the Most High God</i>. Leiden, Boston, Cologne: 185-7.  Zavojkina, N.V. (2012), <i>Bosporskie fiasy: mezhdru polisom i monarkhiej [Bosporan Thiasoi: Between Polis and Monarchy]</i>. Moscow: 120-29.</p>

### XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The terminology employed suggests a private association.