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CAPInv. 1517: **geloistai**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Egypt
ii. Nome	Alexandria (L00)
iii. Site	Alexandria

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	γελοισταί (Ath. 246c)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>geloistai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	221 - 203 BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Theophoric:	<i>geloistai</i> 'buffoons, jesters' (see LSJ s.v.), likely deriving from γέλως, <i>gelos</i> 'laughter' (with possible connection with an epithet of Dionysus: see Tondriau 1946: 153).
	Other:	<i>geloistai</i> 'buffoons, jesters' (see LSJ s.v.), likely deriving from γέλως, <i>gelos</i> 'laughter' (with possible connection with an epithet of Dionysus: see Tondriau 1946: 153).

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Ath. 246c
Note	Athenaeus is quoting Ptolemy son of Agessarchus, writer of a <i>History of Philopator</i> : FGrH 161 F 2.

Online Resources	Ath. 246c
i.a. Source type(s)	Literary source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek, Athaeneus's The Learned Banqueters (<i>Deipnosophistae</i>).

VII. ORGANIZATION

i. Founder(s)	King Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-203 BC).
Gender	Male
iii. Members	The members of the club are called συμπόται, <i>sympotai</i> .

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	Given the terminology used and activities implied by it, it seems likely that the members were men only.

X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events	On the basis of the common name <i>sympotai</i> , it seems that the main activity of the club was drinking.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	It is stated in the text that drinking-buddies were being gathered from all over Alexandria by King Ptolemy IV and named <i>geloistai</i> : συμπότας ... τῷ βασιλεῖ συνάγεσθαι ἐξ ἀπάσης τῆς πόλεως, οὗς προσαγορεύεσθαι γελοιαστάς, <i>sympotas ... to basilei synagesthai ex hapases tes poleos, hous prosagoreuesthai geloistas</i> .
iii. Bibliography	Tondriau, J. (1946), 'Les thiasés dionysiaques royaux de la court ptolémaïque', <i>CE</i> 21: 149-171.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The fact that the group of fellow-drinkers had a proper name (<i>geloistai</i>) points towards the fact that the group was well-established and organised as a private association.
ii. Historical authenticity	One may wonder the reliability of the source and the actual existence of this club.