

Author: STELLA SKAL TSA

CAPInv. 1653: *hymnoidoi theou Sebastou kai theas Rhomes*

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Mysia
iii. Site	Pergamon

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ὕμνοδοι θεοῦ Σεβαστοῦ καὶ θεᾶς Ῥώμης (IGRR IV, 353 A ll. 4-5)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hymnoidoi theou Sebastou kai theas Rhomes</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	129 - 138 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>hymnoidoi theou Sebastou kai theas Rhomes</i> : the cultic connotations of the name are clear.
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IGRR IV, 353 (129-138 AD)
Note	Ed. pr. I.Pergamon 374 + p. 512 See also Harland 2014: no. 111
Online Resources	I.Pergamon 374 (AGRW ID 573)
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Dedication of an altar to Hadrian by the <i>hymnoidoi</i> . The dedication is written in Face A. The text inscribed on the other three faces of the altar regulates the sacrificial/ ritual calendar of the group and sets out the obligations of newly appointed members. Greek
i.c. Physical format(s)	Altar of blue-grey marble inscribed on all four sides. H. 104.5 x W. 60.5 x L. 58.2 cm.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Found in 1885 three metres under the street in the bazaar of the modern town.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	<p>βωμός, <i>bomos</i> (A l. 29) ὑμνοδεῖον, <i>hymnoideion</i> (B l. 17) στέφανοι, <i>stephanoi</i> (B ll. 15, 17) εἰκόνες τῶν Σεβαστῶν, <i>eikones ton Sebaston</i> (C l. 12) πόπανος, <i>popanos</i> (B l. 19) λίβανος, <i>libanos</i> (B ll. 19, 24) λύχνοι, <i>lychnoi</i> (B l. 19) οἶνος, <i>oinos</i> (B l. 10, C ll. 5, 8, 10, D ll. 5, 10, 16, 18) ἄρτος, <i>artos</i> (B ll. 6, 9, 11, C ll. 5, 7, 8, 9, D ll. 9, 11, 16) μνά, <i>mna</i> (B ll. 5, 9, 11, C ll. 5, 7, 8, 9, D ll. 5, 9, 11, 16) στρώσις, <i>strosis</i> (C ll. 5, 7, 11, D ll. 5, 9, 10, 18)</p>
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VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	<p>ὑμνοδός, <i>hymnoidos</i> (D ll. 13, 17-8)</p> <p>Members were appointed (<i>katastatheis hymnodos</i>, C l. 12, D l. 13) Sons of existing members could join the association on more favourable terms than members with no affiliation to sitting members. It seems therefore that the affiliation to the <i>hymnoidoi</i> at Pergamon was partly a hereditary prerogative; at least it opened up the way for sons of members to be admitted into the group.</p>
iv. Officials	<p>οἱ ἄρχοντες, <i>hoi archontes</i> (B l. 22, D ll. 19-20)</p> <p>εὐκοσμος, <i>eukosmos</i> (B l. 3)</p> <p>ἱερεύς, <i>hiereus</i> (C l. 3)</p> <p>γραμματεὺς, <i>grammateus</i> (D l. 3)</p> <p>These officials were in charge of undertaking specific tasks on the occasion of festivals celebrated by the group (see below X.ii).</p>
v. Other staff	<p>θεολόγος, <i>theologos</i> (A l. 29) A <i>theologos</i> composed eulogies for the emperor.</p>

viii. Obligations

ἰσηλύσιον, *iselysion* (D l. 13): the entrance fee for a newly appointed *hymnodos* consisted of (D ll. 13-17):

- 100 *denarii* for the sacrifices of Augustus and Roma,
- 15 *denarii* to each actual member
- 30 *denarii* to the gods
- gifts including wine, three loaves of bread
- gifts including half a loaf of bread and half a *mna* to the sons of the actual members

The editor of IGRR IV, 353 calculated the total contribution of new members to 702.5 *denarii*, provided that there the number of members was fixed to 35 (in Smyrna there were 24 *hymnodoi*).

The *hymnodos* taking over his father hymn, *patroion hymnon*, D l. 17 (hereditary right in membership), had to contribute the following (D ll. 17-18):

- 15 *denarii* to the gods
- 7 *denarii* to each actual member
- gifts including wine and *strosis*

However, the officials were obliged to give back to the sons who have paid the choral fee (χορεῖον, *choreion*, D l. 20) half of their fees (D ll. 18-21). Thus there was a 50% reduction for the sons of existing members.

It seems that there was a special entry fee for sons of existing members, called the χορεῖον, *choreion*, D l. 20.

The editor of IGRR IV, 353 calculated the total contribution of the sons of existing members to 253 *denarii*.

The *exotikoi hymnoidoi* (ἐξωτικοὶ ὑμνωδοί, C ll. 12-3) had to contribute 50 *denarii* to the statues of the Sebastoi (εἰς εἰκόνας τῶν Σεβαστῶν, *eis eikonas ton Sebaston*, C l. 12).

Harland (2014: 132) translates the term *exotikos* as outsiders, whereas Fränkel, the editor of I.Pergamon 374, considers that the term refers to non-Pergamene members.

The term *exotikos* is also attested in the inscription of the Iobakchoi from Athens (1G II2 1368 l. 55). There the term has been interpreted in various ways, from 'domiciled away from his father's house' to 'foreigner' and 'son of a non-member' (see Ebel 2004: 97 n. 106).

In the Pergamene inscription, however, the term should rather stand for 'non-Pergamenes' as Fränkel suggested, especially if we take into account that stipulations for new members and the sons of existing members are listed in the text after the remunerations of non-Pergamene members were specified.

Obligations of officials:

archon: he was responsible for providing 15 *denarii* for the incense used at the funeral of a deceased member (B ll. 21-23). However, he was to get this amount back from the newly appointed member in the place of the deceased.

The *archontes* (D ll. 19-22) were responsible for giving back 50% of the entrance fee paid by the sons of members provided that they had paid the *choreion*.

eukosmos: he provided remunerations (*mna*, *oinos*, *artos*) in the following festivals/ celebrations:

- on the 23rd of September (Kaisar)- birthday of Augustus
- on the 1st of January (Peretios)- celebration of the Roman New Year
- on the 23rd of May (Panemos) - celebration of Rosalia
- on the 25th of June (Loos) - celebration of the Mysteries
- on the penultimate day of Hyperberetaios (21st of September)

On the monthly celebrations for the birthday of Augustus and on the birthdays of other emperors the *eukosmos* shall provide crowns to the *hymnoidoi*.

In the mysteries the *eukosmos* shall provide cake, incense and lamps for Augustus (B ll. 16-20).

See also VII.ix

hiereus: he provided remunerations (*mna*, *oinos*, *artos*, *strosis*) in the following festivals/ celebrations:

- on the 1st of January - Roman New Year
- on the 24th of May (Panemos) - Rosalia
- on the 24th of June (Loos) - Mysteries
- on the penultimate day of Hyperberetaios (21st of September)

grammateus: he provided remuneration (*mna*, *oinos*, *artos*, *strosis*, *assaria*) in the following festivals/ celebrations:

- on the penultimate day of Hyperberetaios (21st of September) - birthday of Sebaste
- on the 1st of January - Roman New Year
- on the 25th of May (Panemos) - Rosalia
- on the 23rd of June (Loos) - Mysteries

ix. Privileges	<p>In the monthly celebration for Augustus' birthday and in the celebrations for the birthday's of other emperors the <i>eukosmos</i> shall provide crowns to the <i>hymnoidoi</i> (B ll. 13-16)</p> <p>In the mysteries (B ll. 16-18) the <i>hymnoidoi</i> and their sons shall be crowned every day by the <i>eukosmos</i> in the Hymnodeion.</p> <p>Members received remunerations from newly appointed members (D ll. 13-15, 18-19).</p>
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VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	ἐκ τοῦ κοινοῦ, <i>ek tou koinou</i> (B ll. 24-25)
ii. Realty	ὕμνωδεῖον, <i>hymnodeion</i> (B l. 17) - given the close link between the name of the group (<i>hymnodoi</i>) and the name of the building it might be safe to assume that the <i>hymnoideion</i> was the seat/ headquarters of the group.
iii. Income	See above VII.viii

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	<p>There appear to have between 33 and 36 singers at Pergamon, if not more (33 attested names, while there is space for two or three more names in A ll. 17-18).</p> <p>It can be deduced that the number of members was fixed, as the text regulates that a new member was to take up the place of a deceased (B ll. 21-23).</p>
ii. Gender	Men
Note	All extant names are male.
iii. Age	Children Adults
Note	<p>The names of some members are further designated as υἱός, <i>hyos</i> (A ll. 9, 10, 26), ἑγγονός, <i>eggonos</i> (A ll. 12, 13), whereas different entrance fees apply to sons of members. It is not clear, however, whether the sons of existing members had to be of age before joining the group.</p> <p>In B l. 24 there is mention of παῖδες, <i>paides</i> who, however, should be dissociated from members. They have been considered to be slaves.</p>
iv. Status	<p>On account of the prosopography it can be deduced that the <i>hymnodoi</i> were high-profile individuals. 27 names in the membership list (Face A) hold the tria nomina, indicative of Roman citizenship.</p> <p>One of the members Moschos, son of Moschos, was ὀλυμπιονεΐκης, <i>olympioneikes</i> (A l. 14), victor at Panhellenic games (in Olympia).</p> <p>Some of the members or their relatives are attested in other Pergamene inscriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L. Aneinos Flakkos (L. Aninius Flaccus) in A l. 11 may be identified with the archiboukolos L. Aninius Fla[...] in MDAI(A) 24 [1899]: 179 no. 31 l. 13 (see CAP Inv. 927). - A member of the Castricii family (A l. 16, 29) was an initiate of Demeter (MDAI(A) 35 (1910) now. 41-42). <p>According to Harland (2014: 134) T. Klaudios Prokillianos (T. Claudius Procillianus) (A l. 28) may be identified with a Galatarch that holds the same name and honoured by a civic tribe at Ankyra two or three decades earlier (I.AnkyraB 142).</p> <p>The example of T. Claudius Procillianus, probably originating from Galatia, together with the mention of <i>exotikoi hymnodoi</i> indicates that the membership profile was not exclusive to Pergamenes but it encompassed well-off individuals from all over the province. High social status, however, may have facilitated admission to the group (high remunerations upon entry).</p>
v. Relations	Admission to the group seems to have been facilitated for sons of sitting members. See also IX.iii

X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events	<p>The group held monthly meetings in remembrance of the birthdays of Augustus (τῇ τοῦ Σεβαστοῦ ἐνμνήνῳ γενεσίῳ, <i>tei tou Sebastou enmenoi genesioi</i>, B ll. 13-14) and other emperors (ταῖς λοιπαῖς γενεσίῳ τῶν αὐτοκρατόρων, <i>tais loipais genesiois ton autokratoron</i>, B ll. 14-15).</p> <p>The <i>hymnodoi</i> held a three-day celebrations from the 21st to the 23rd of September on the occasion of Augustus' birthday which was preceded by celebrations for the birthday of Livia (not her actual birthday which was on January 30).</p> <p>They also held a three-day festival on the occasion of Rosalia in May and likewise a three-day festival in the Mysteries in June.</p> <p>They also celebrated the Roman New Year on the 1st of January.</p>
iii. Worship	Sacrifices for Sebastos and Roma (D ll. 14) upon entry of new members.
Deities worshipped	Sebastos Roma

XI. INTERACTION

ii. Interaction abroad	The close relation to the imperial house is manifested by the dedication of the altar to Hadrian, the name of the group, the rituals and sacrifices performed in honour of Augustus, Roma and other emperors.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>In 44 AD the proconsul of Asia, Paullus Fabius Persicus, took measures for the re-organization of the <i>hymnodoi</i> at Ephesus (IEphesos 17-18). <i>Hymnodoi</i> would from then on be selected among the ephebes who would perform for free. The only exception he made was for the <i>hymnodoi</i> at Pergamon, allowed to be appointed by the city and reimbursed from the entire province. This inscription provides the earliest reference to a <i>synodos</i> of <i>hymnodoi</i> at Pergamon (reign of Claudius). A contemporary inscription from Hypaipa in Lydia (IEphesos 3801, dating to the reign of Claudius, carries another reference to the <i>hiera synodos en Pergamoi</i>. This text illustrates the important role of Pergamon in the celebration of the imperial cult at a provincial level; <i>hymnodoi</i> all over Asia came to Pergamon to praise the emperor. However, for nearly a century (from the reign of Claudius to the reign of Hadrian) our sources are silent when it comes to an organised body of <i>hymnodoi</i> with Pergamon as its seat. Nevertheless, there are some scanty attestations to individual <i>hymnodoi</i>, without these being conclusive evidence for the existence of a corporate group of <i>hymnodoi</i>. For example, two <i>hymnodoi</i>, acting as <i>paidonomoi</i> and a <i>grammateus</i> set up a dedication to the Sebastoi, Hermes and Herakles (MDAI(A) 29 (1904): 167 no. 8, AGRW 571). Equally less visible is the association after Hadrian's reign as the only evidence for <i>hymnodoi</i> dates after 176 AD and again it is about an individual <i>hymnodos</i> (IPergamon 523). In particular, it is an honorific inscription for Tib. Klaudia Melitine, whose father, besides other offices, was a <i>hymnodos</i> of Divus Augustus. Due to the chronological gap it is unclear whether these two individual <i>hymnodoi</i> were members of the association under question.</p>
ii. Poland concordance	B 393
iii. Bibliography	<p>Belayche, N. (2013), 'L'évolution des formes rituelles: hymnes et mystéria', in L. Bricault & C. Bonnet (eds.), <i>Panthée: Religious Transformations in the Graeco-Roman Empire</i>. Leiden/Boston: 17-40.</p> <p>Burrell, B. (2004), <i>Neokoroi: Greek cities and Roman Emperors</i>. Leiden: 349</p> <p>Ebel, E. (2004), <i>Die Attraktivität früher christlicher Gemeinden. Die Gemeinde von Korinth im Spiegel griechisch-römischer Vereine</i>.</p> <p>Harland, P.A. (2014), <i>Graeco-Roman Associations: Texts, Translations and Commentary. Vol. II: North Coast of the Black Sea, Asia Minor</i>. Berlin.</p>

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Possible

Note

The *hymnodoi theou Sebastou kai theas Rhomes* display features of a well-structured and exclusive organization (several officials, admission criteria). Membership was not open to anyone, but new members had to pay an entrance fee as well as provide remunerations to existing members. Membership could pass from father to son, provided that the son would fulfill the admission criteria (entrance fee and remunerations). The formal organization and durability of the group seem to be unquestionable. What remains unclear is the private nature of the group. The primary purpose of the group was to hold rituals and sacrifices for the imperial house and thus the group took on an official role in ensuring through its cultic performances the city's allegiance to the imperial house.