

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Eastern Asia Minor
ii. Region	Pontus
iii. Site	Sebastopolis

II. NAME

i. Association with unknown name	U-EAM-005
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III. DATE

i. Date(s)	117 - 138 AD
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Mittford 1991: 200-5 no. 12 (117-138 AD)
Note	See also: Anderson 1900: 153-6 no. 2 IGR III 115 OGIS 529 Le Guen-Pollet 1989: 65-7 no. 10
Online Resources	EA 13: 65 no. 10
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek honorary inscription for M. Antonius Rufus.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Limestone stele
ii. Source(s) provenance	The inscription was found at Sulusaray (Sebastopolis).

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership

θιασάρχης, *thiasarches* (l. 5)

In addition to various civic offices held by the honorand, the latter was stated to have been *thiasarches* several times (καὶ θιασαρχήσαντα πολλάκις, *kai thiasarchesanta pollakis*, ll. 5-6). This suggests that the leader of the association in question bore the title θιασάρχης, *thiasarches*.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments

The suggested date is based on the fact that the honorand was high-priest of Hadrian. The phrase θιασαρχήσαντα πολλάκις (*thiasarchesanta pollakis*, ll. 5-6) renders possible that the official name of the association in question included the term *thiasos* or one of its derivatives, such as *thiasitai*. M. Antonius Rufus was a distinguished figure in Sebastopolis and a descendant of an illustrious family. He served as *archon* and *agoranomos* several times, he assumed the lifelong high-priesthood of Hadrian, organizing gladiatorial games (Robert 1940: 128-9) and the *Pontarchia* at Neokaisareia. He also financed public constructions and distributions. In this respect providing leadership and presumably benefactions to a local *thiasos* on various occasions on the one hand constituted a vital aspect of his political and social capital and on the other hand highlighted and strengthened the importance of such associations in Sebastopolis (cf. Van Nijf 1997: 74-82 and 118-22; Maillot 2013: 204-7).

ii. Poland concordance

Poland B* 440 B

iii. Bibliography

Anderson, J.G.C. (1900), 'Pontica', *JHS* 20: 151-8.
Le Guen-Pollet, B. (1989), 'Sébastopolis du Pont (Sulusaray). Documents littéraires et inscriptions déjà publiées de la cité', *EA* 13: 51-86.
Maillot, S. (2013), 'Les associations à Cos' in P. Fröhlich and P. Hamon (eds.), *Groupes et associations dans les cités grecques (IIIe siècle av. J.-C. – IIe siècle apr. J.-C.)*, Genève: 199-226.
Mitford, T. B. (1991), 'Inscriptions Ponticae – Sebastopolis', *ZPE* 87: 181-243.
Robert, L. (1940), *Les gladiateurs dans l'Orient grec*. Paris.
Van Nijf, O. (1997), *The Civic World of Professional Associations in the Roman East*. Amsterdam.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

The term *thiasarches* refers to the leadership of a *thiasos*, thus to a private association.