

Author: STELLA SKAL TSA

CAPInv. 1872: to politeuma

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Aegean Islands
ii. Region	Kos
iii. Site	Kos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	τὸ πολίτευμα (IG XII 4.2 983 l. 5)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>to politeuma</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	80 - 51 BC
------------	------------

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

iii. Descriptive terms	πολίτευμα
Note	<i>politeuma</i>

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG XII 4.2 983 (80-51 BC)
Note	PH 74 OGI I 192
Online Resources	Paton-Hicks 74
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Honorary inscription in Greek for Ptolemy XII on behalf of the <i>politeuma</i> .
i.c. Physical format(s)	Base of dark marble.

ii. Source(s) provenance	Found in a private house in Kos.
--------------------------	----------------------------------

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	ἄρχαντες, <i>arxantes</i> l. 4 Apollophanes and Iliades were officials.
----------------	--

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	Three male names are recorded in the inscription. The honorary inscription for Ptolemy XII was set up by the two officials, Apollophanes and Iliades, and by Zenodoros (ll. 2-4).

X. ACTIVITIES

iv. Honours/Other activities	Two officials of the <i>politeuma</i> and presumably one member (Zenodoros) honoured Ptolemy XII on behalf of the <i>politeuma</i> .
------------------------------	--

XI. INTERACTION

ii. Interaction abroad	It is unclear under which circumstances representatives of the <i>politeuma</i> honoured Ptolemy XII on Kos.
------------------------	--

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The bulk of evidence for <i>politeumata</i> comes from Ptolemaic Egypt, where <i>politeumata</i> are first attested in the second century BC. In Egypt the <i>politeuma</i> is usually and most often designated by an <i>ethnikon</i> , whereas its members may have had a military background (Hongman 2003; Sängner 2014). In the inscription from Kos an ethnic designation is missing and nothing is revealed about the background of the dedicators. Although the Koan inscription is elusive as to the precise nature of the <i>politeuma</i> , it nonetheless makes explicit the close connection between the <i>politeuma</i> and the Ptolemaic kingdom, as the <i>politeuma</i> set up an honorific inscription for Ptolemy XII on Kos, an island with close ties with Egypt (see Bagnall 1976: 103-5).
iii. Bibliography	Bagnall, R. (1976), <i>The administration of the Ptolemaic possessions outside Egypt</i> . Leiden. Honigman, S. (2003), 'Politeumata and Ethnicity in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt', <i>AncSoc</i> 33: 61-102. Sängner, P. (2014), 'The Politeuma in the Hellenistic World (Third to First Century B.C.): A Form of Organisation to Integrate Minorities', in: J. Dahlvik/Chr. Reinprecht/W. Sievers (eds.), <i>Migration and Integration – wissenschaftliche Perspektiven aus Österreich. Jahrbuch 2/2013</i> , Göttingen: 51-68.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Probable

Note

The presence of officials (*arxantes*) and the formal name *politeuma* underlines the existence of a formally organized group with an internal structure and hierarchy, evidence that can point to a private association. However, caution is needed as the debate over the precise nature of the *politeuma* in Ptolemaic Egypt, public vs private, is still open (Sänger 2014).