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CAPInv. 1915: *mystai autou*

I. LOCATION

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

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	μύσται αὐτοῦ (IG XII 6.1, 132 l. 9)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>mystai autou</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	ii BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>mystai</i>
	Personal:	<i>autou</i> : possessive pronoun referring to the <i>mystai</i> of Xenombrotos

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG XII 6.1 132 (ii BC)
Note	See also Robert 1935: 477-86.
Online Resources	IG XII 6.1 132
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Decree of the <i>chiliastyres</i> of the lesser Epidaurians those who climb up to the Helikonion.

i.c. Physical format(s)	Stele broken at the upper left corner H. 23.5 x L. 6.3 x TH. 1.2 cm
ii. Source(s) provenance	Unknown.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	ἡρώον, <i>heroon</i> (l. 8)
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VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	μῦσται, <i>mystai</i> (l. 9)
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VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

iv. Endowments	Xenombrotos, son of Philmbrotos, made an endowment to the chilastis of the lesser Epidaurians who climb up to the Helikonion: ἐπίδοσιν πεποιήται, <i>epidosin pepoietai</i> , ll. 6-7. This endowment would fund the sacrifice (θυσία, <i>thysia</i> l. 8) made annually by his tomb.
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X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events	Every year the <i>mystai</i> would come together to take part in a sacrifice (θυσία, <i>thysia</i> , l. 8) and a banquet (σύνδοκος, <i>synodos</i> l. 9) held in the memory of Xenombrotos by his heroon that was built by himself.
iii. Worship	This inscription provides evidence for the cult of benefactors (note the infinitive εὐεργετεῖν, <i>euergetein</i> in l. 14), instigated by themselves through a foundation. The use of the term <i>mystai</i> to denote the participants in the commemorative event for Xenombrotos and the fact that a sacrifice is made to in honour of Xenombrotos all this suggest that a cult for a founder/ benefactor is at stake.

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	Members of a civic subdivision (chyliastes) take part in the commemoration of a fellow-chyliastes and benefactor, after the latter provided the necessary funds through an endowment for an annual gathering in his memory.
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XII. NOTES

iii. Bibliography	Robert, L. (1935), 'Inscriptions de Lesbos et de Samos', <i>BCH</i> 59: 471-88.
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XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Possible

Note

The text provides evidence for an association in the making. The purpose of the endowment was to bring fellow-chiliastai together to commemorate Xenimbrotos on an annual basis. The participants in this event are called *mystai*. Although they display a collective identity and participate in an event together, the durability of this group is uncertain. The inscription is of much interest in that it sheds light on the formation of groups through endowments.