

Author: STELLA SKAL TSA

CAPInv. 1991: Poseidoniastai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Aegean Islands
ii. Region	Thasos
iii. Site	Ancient city of Thasos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Ποσειδωνιασταί (IG XII.8 Suppl. 366, l. 1)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Poseidoniastai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	ii - i BC
------------	-----------

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

i. Name in other forms	ἡ σύνοδος τῶν Ποσειδωνιαστῶν, <i>he synodos ton Poseidoniaston</i> l. 16 (note that the term <i>synodos</i> is fully restored, though it appears elsewhere in the inscription, l. 14)	
ii. Name elements	Theophoric:	Poseidon
iii. Descriptive terms	σύνοδος, <i>synodos</i> , ll. 14, 16	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 (ii/i c. BC) IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 (i c. BC)
Online Resources	IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 IG XII.8 Suppl. 367
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	IG XII.8 Suppl. 366: honorific decree for Pythion, son of Herakleides set up by the association of the <i>Poseidoniastai</i>. IG XII.8 Suppl. 367: honorific decree for unknown benefactors by an association the name of which is not preserved (for the attribution of the decree to the association of the <i>Poseidoniastai</i> see VI.i; cf. Seyrig and Bon 1929: 342). Greek.
i.c. Physical format(s)	IG XII.8 Suppl. 366: pedimental stele of Thabian marble, broken below, with acroteria in the corners. H. (max.) 37 x W. 31 x Th. 7 cm. IG XII.8 Suppl. 367: two fragments of a stele of Thabian marble. Fragment A: H. 25 x W. 25-26 x Th. 5cm. Fragment B: H. 24 x W. 25 x Th. 5cm. Seyrig and Bon (1929: 341) attributed the two fragments to the same decree on account of the letterforms ('l'identité absolue des lettres'), the way the stele is broken as well as the identical dimensions of the two fragments in terms of width and thickness.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Both inscriptions were found in the sanctuary of Poseidon in the ancient city of Thasos (see VI.i.).

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains	The inscriptions were found in a building complex (48.5 x 33m) that has been identified with the sanctuary of Poseidon on account of two fourth-century dedications to the god by Xenophanes, a Thasian citizen (IG XII.8 Suppl. 432.1; 432.2) and the late Hellenistic decree of the <i>Poseidoniastai</i>. This sanctuary is located close to two main gates that lead to the port, not far away from the sanctuary of Dionysos to the east and the Agora to the west. For the sanctuary see Seyrig & Bon 1929.
ii. References to buildings/objects	<i>toichos</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 l. 12 <i>stoa</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 l. 13 The stele of the decree was set up on the wall in the stoa.

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership Eponymous office	ἐπώνυμος, <i>eponymos</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 ll. 1-2; IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 ll. 18-19 The <i>Poseidoniastai</i> as the issuing authority name themselves after the year of the eponymous when the decree was passed: IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 ll. 1-2, ἔδοξεν τοῖς Ποσειδωνιασταῖς τοῖς μετ' ἐπώνυμου Ἀγαθοκλείους, <i>edoxen tois Poseidoniastais this met'eponymou Agathokleious tou Agathokleious</i>
iv. Officials	ταμίας, <i>tamias</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 ll. 15, 19 γραμματεὺς, <i>grammateus</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 l. 19 The <i>eponymos</i>, the <i>tamias</i> and the <i>grammateus</i> were responsible for imposing fines in cases of trespasses against the decrees (IG XII.8 Suppl. 367, ll 18-24). Known practice of appointment The tenure of of the <i>eponymos</i>, the <i>tamias</i> and the <i>grammateus</i> was probably annual: IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 l. 20: τοὺς ἐκάστοτε γινόμενους, <i>tous ekastote ginomenous</i>).
v. Other staff	ἐπιμήνιος, <i>epimenios</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 366l. 6 To indicate the year of Pythion's appointment as <i>epimenios</i> the association uses the Thasian year (IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 ll. 6-7: ἐν τῷ ἐν<ι>αυ-τῷ τῷ ἐπὶ Ἀγασιφῶντος, <i>en toi eniautoi toi epi Agasiphontos</i>). Expenses related to the office of <i>epimenia</i> could be defrayed by the common treasury: IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 ll. 3-4: ὅ[ταν] ἐπιμηνιεύηται[ται] ἐκ τοῦ κοινοῦ, <i>hotan epimeneueitai ek tou koinou</i> Known practice of appointment αἰρεθεὶς ἐπιμήνιος, <i>hairetheis epimenios</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 l. 6

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	κοινὰ πρόσδοσι, <i>koinai prosodoi</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 366 ll. 10-11 ἐκ τοῦ κοινοῦ, <i>ek tou koinou</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 l. 4 Expenses related to the office of the <i>epimenios</i> could be defrayed by the common funds. ἐκ τοῦ πόρου τοῦ ταμικοῦ, <i>ek tou porou tou tamikou</i>, IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 l. 14 From these revenues the expenditure of the stele was to be defrayed.
iii. Income	A penalty of 6 drachmai, a rather small amount (Seyrig and Bon 1929: 342 for comparisons with other fines), is imposed to anyone who acts against the prescriptions included in the honours (IG XII.8 Suppl. II. 21-24: καὶ ζημιοῦν ἄχρι δραχμῶν ἕξ τὸν [ἀπει]- θοῦντα περὶ τῶν γεγραμμένων ἐν [ταῖς] τιμαῖς, <i>kai zemioun achri drachmas hex ton apeithounta peri ton gegrammenon en tais timais</i>).

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	The names of the officials and the honorands are all male.
iii. Age	Adults
iv. Status	The officials were citizens, as personal names are followed by patronymics. The honorand and <i>epimenios</i> of IG XII.8 Suppl. 366, Pythion son of Herakleides, is attested in the list of <i>theoroi</i>, i.e. civic officials of the city of Thasos (IG XII.8 306). The <i>tamias</i> in IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 is called Amphitryon, an otherwise unattested name in the Greek world, with one attestation only in Pompeii (CIL IV 4514, 11). Given the mythical connotations of the name, it can be proposed that the name Amphitryon acts as a nickname in the circles of the association.

X. ACTIVITIES

i. Assemblies	The association passed decrees for officials who acted in a magnanimous way.
ii. Meetings and events	The association held meetings where proclamations of honours were announced, see below X.iv. The association performed sacrifices, see below X.iv. Commemoration of deceased benefactors, see below X.iv.
iv. Honours/Other activities	The honours passed for Pythion, the <i>epimenios</i> of the association, included the stele of the decree. The stele is broken just after the resolution formula and as a result it is not known what kind of honours the association conferred to Pythion. However, Pythion was honoured on account of his ancestors' virtue (II. 3-5) and because he took over the expenses related to the office of the <i>epimenios</i>. The honorands in IG XII.8 Suppl. 367 were granted the following honours: - proclamation of honours: I. 2: ἀναγορευέτω καθ' ἕνα ἕκαστον, <i>anagoreueto kath'hena hekaston</i> - perquisite of double portion in the sacrifices: I. 3 διμοῖρα, <i>dimoiria</i> - a gold crown of half a stater would be deposited on the funerary bed if the honorand passed away: II. 4-7, στεφαν[οῦς]-[θαί δὲ αὐτοῦς καὶ εἴ τι περὶ τινα αὐτῶν ἀν- θρόωπινον γένοιτο πρὸ τῆς ἐκκομιδ[ῆς] στεφάνῳ χρυσῶι [εἰ] ἡμιχρύσου.

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	The cult of Poseidon was one of the official cults of Thasos and the sanctuary is taken for a public sanctuary of Poseidon in the literature.
----------------------	---

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	In Thasos the <i>eponymia</i> is also attested in the association of the Sarapiastai, see CAPInv. 17. The Thasian eponym, Agasiphon, may be identified with Agasiphon son of Olympiodoros, a <i>theoros</i> in Thasos in the 1st c. BC (IG XII.8 205 l. 15; Seyrig and Bon 1929: 342).
iii. Bibliography	Seyrig, H. and Bon, A. 1929: 'Le sanctuaire de Poseidon à Thasos', <i>BCH</i> 53: 317-50.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The internal structure of the associations, the existence of funds and the system of imposing penalties point towards a private association.