

CAPInv. 385: **Mystai Herakleous**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Pisidia
iii. Site	Termessos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Μύσται Ἡρακλέους (SEG 57: 1474, l. 2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Mystai Herakleous</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	212 - m. iii (?) AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	μύσται, <i>mystai</i>
	Heroic:	Ἡρακλῆς, <i>Herakles</i>

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	SEG 57: 1474 (212 - m. iii (?) AD)
Online Resources	SEG 57: 1474
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Dedication in Greek of a κυνεῖον, <i>kyneion</i> (l. <i>koineion</i>) (l. 4) to Herakles.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Large limestone base moulded above and below.

ii. Source(s) provenance

Near the stone bridge in the SW of the necropolis.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects

καθιέρωσαν τὸ κυνεῖον, *kathierosan to kyneion* (l. *kathierosan to koineion*) (l. 2). The original editor and SEG identify this word as a misspelling referring to the building where their meetings would have been held (κοινεῖον, *koineion*)

VII. ORGANIZATION

iv. Officials

The officials such as *proboulos* (l. 6 *et passim*), *chreophylax* (l. 6 *et passim*) and *neokoros* (l. 6 *et passim*) attested in the inscription belong to the political structures of Termessos and not to the association.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number

This inscription with some lacunae records 16 members as ὑπογεγραμμένοι, *hypogegrammenoi* (l. 5).

ii. Gender

Men

iv. Status

Some of the members were officials of the highest rank of Termessos, especially the two *probouloi*.

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship

The dedication of the κυνεῖον, *kyneion* (l. *koineion*) mentions the association's devotion to Heracles: ἐπιφανεστάτῳ θεῷ εὐξάμ[ε]νοι, *epiphanestatoi theoi euxam[e]noi* (ll. 3-4).

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction

Whereas the interaction of the association with the civic life of Termessos is unknown, its members were fully implicated in the political structures of the *polis* and other relevant cults such as that of Zeus *Solymneus* and Leto.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments

The list of *probouloi* and prosopography elaborated by Heberdey provides a likely date for this inscription around AD 230s.

iii. Bibliography

Heberdey, R. (1929), *Termessische Studien*, Vienna.
Heberdey, R. (1934), 'Termessos', *RE*² 5.2: 732-78.
İplikçioğlu, B., Çelgin, G., and Vedat Çelgin, A. (2007), *Epigraphische Forschungen in Termessos und seinem Territorium IV*. Vienna.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Probable

Note

The absence of further evidence describing the internal functioning of the group or confirming its continuity prevents us from affirming that these *mystai* were certainly a private association. Nonetheless, the fact that they had enough resources to prepare what may have been a place of common worship denotes a higher degree of probability.