

CAPInv. 432: **he synodos ton Asklepiou hiereon**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Peloponnese with Adjacent Islands
ii. Region	Arcadia
iii. Site	Mantineia

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἡ σύνοδος τῶν Ἀσκληπιοῦ ἱερέων (IG V.2 269, ll. 35-36)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>he synodos ton Asklepiou hiereon</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	i AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

i. Name in other forms	ἡ σύνοδος, <i>he synodos</i> (l. 5) οἱ ἱερεῖς τοῦ Ἀσκληπιοῦ, <i>hoi hiereis tou Asklepiou</i> (ll. 9-10, 12-13, 17) οἱ ἱερεῖς, <i>hoi hiereis</i> (l. 24, 30)
ii. Name elements	Professional: <i>hiereis</i> Status-related: <i>hiereis</i> Theophoric: <i>Asklepios, Asclepius</i>
iii. Descriptive terms	σύνοδος, <i>synodos</i>
Note	<i>synodos</i> : IG V.2 269, ll. 5, 35

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG V.2 269 (i AD)
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Online Resources	IG V.2 269
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Honorary decree in Greek by the association of the priests of Asklepios for Iulia Eudia in return for her donation of land including vineyards to the synod.
i.c. Physical format(s)	A stele damaged at its lower part.
ii. Source(s) provenance	It was found built into the city-wall of Mantinea.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	<p>τῶι ναῶι τοῦ Ἀσκλη[η]πιοῦ, <i>toi naoi tou Asklepiou</i>, l. 15. τὸ ἱερὸν τοῦ Ἀσκληπιοῦ, <i>to hieron tou Asklepiou</i>, l. 34</p> <p>The temple must be identified with that described by Pausanias (8.9.1), where the cult statue of the god was a work of Alkamenes, which shows the super-local prestige of the sanctuary at least in the Classical period. That Asklepios was still in the Imperial period a prominent deity of the town, is shown by the depiction of Asklepios on coins of Mantinea (see Gardner and Poole 1887: 187). For representation of Hygieia on coins and sculpture fragments that have been attributed to the sanctuary see Jost 1985: 125. According to Jost (1985: 125) the fact that <i>Isiaca</i> and <i>Pyrophorika Deipna</i> are mentioned in the decree reveals that there was also a banquet hall in the proximity of the temple; however these banquets and the banquet hall are not directly related to the association of the priests of Asklepios.</p> <p>εἰκόνα γραπτὴν ... ἐν ὅπλοι ἐπιχρύσωι, <i>eikona graptēn ... en hoploi epichrysoi</i>, ll. 15-16. The dedication of a painted <i>imago clipeata</i> of Eudia in a gilded frame bearing the relevant honorary inscription in the temple of Asklepios was a part of the honours voted for her by the association of the priests of Asklepios.</p>
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VII. ORGANIZATION

iii. Members	ἱερεῖς, <i>hiereis</i> (l. 24, 30)
vii. Judicial system	Violation of certain provisions of the decree concerning honours to Eudia means a fine of 50 drachmas, which the culprit has to pay to her, her descendants and the priests of Asklepios (ll. 27-32). The <i>epignoma</i> , probably a civic officeholder, controls the whole procedure. For judicial details concerning the procedure see Harter-Uibopuu 2010: 250-1.

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

ii. Realty	The <i>synodos</i> owns landed property. Iulia Eudia, daughter of Euteleinos, donated to the association vineyards of six or more <i>plethra</i> (l. 10: ἀμπελων πλεθρα ἑξ [...], <i>ampelon plethra hes [...]</i>).
iv. Endowments	The bequest of Iulia Eudia, daughter of Euteleinos, is the only known endowment to the association (see VIII.ii: Realty, above).

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	The members of the group were the priests of Asklepios

iii. Age	Adults
Note	The priests of Asklepios were adults.

X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events	<p>Sacrifices are performed, and banquets take place, perhaps after the sacrifices (Il. 24-25). From the decree of the association in honour of Iulia Eudia it also becomes clear that the priests of Asklepios took part in the so-called <i>Isiaka</i> and <i>Pyrphorika deipna</i>, to which the honorand Iulia Eudia is not invited. Jost (1985: 505-6) suggests that we are dealing with two different kinds of banquets. The <i>pyrphorika deipna</i> are to be connected with the function of <i>pyrphoros</i>, attested in the Asklepieia of Epidauros and Athens, the "bearer of the sacred fire". This function became prominent in the Imperial period. Thus, according to Jost, the <i>pyrphorika deipna</i> were organized by the <i>pyrphoroi</i>. The <i>isiaka deipna</i> are puzzling, as there is no obvious reason why the priests of Asklepios participated in those banquets. After suggesting several hypotheses, Dunand (1973: 163-4) leaves the question open. Jost (1985: 506) suggests that the <i>isiaka deipna</i> were not the banquets in honour of Isis, which display a particular ritual, but merely banquets organized by the functionaries of Isis, as the <i>pyrphorika deipna</i> were organized by the <i>pyrphoroi</i>; it is to be further stressed that both groups were in service of deities protecting the health of the believers and thus in this sense related to the priests of Asklepios.</p> <p>In the decree it is further established that in the fifth month of the year Eudia's birthday is henceforth to be celebrated with sacrifices to Asklepios and Hygeia (Il. 19-24).</p>
iii. Worship	Mention of sacrifices to Asklepios and Hygeia (Il. 19-24) prove worship by the group.
Deities worshipped	Asklepio, <i>Hygeia</i>
iv. Honours/Other activities	<p>Iulia Eudia, Euteleinos's daughter, is honoured by the association. From Il. 35-37 we see that voting of honours was a common practice of the association towards its benefactors.</p> <p>Beyond the praise of Eudia and the dedication of her portrait in the temple of Asklepios, her birthday in the fifth month of the year is to be regularly celebrated by the <i>synodos</i> with sacrifices to Asklepios and Hygeia for her and her husband's safety. Moreover, she is to be invited lifelong ἐπὶ τὰ γέρα, <i>epi ta gera</i>, together with her husband – an honour which is to be extended to her descendants – in every meal of the priests, whilst her share (αἶσα, <i>aisa</i>) is to be sent to her in case of <i>Isiaka</i> and <i>Pyrphorika Deipna</i> (Il. 13-27).</p>

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	<p>The individual honoured by the association, Iulia Eudia, was probably an outstanding member of the local society. She was wealthy enough to make further donations, perhaps vineyards again, to an other association, that of the priests of Zeus (IG V 2, 270), cf. CAP Inv. 433.</p> <p>The prominent role of the association in the local community is further shown by the fact that a civic office-holder, the <i>epignoma</i>, has the control of the procedure of punishment in case of violation of the association's decisions.</p>
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>The fact that the priests decide to celebrate Eudia's birthday with sacrifices reinforces the assumption that the <i>synodos</i> of the priests of Asklepios, even if it consisted of actual priests, does not act as a <i>collegium</i> of acting priests, an official polis-capacity, since the beneficiary of the sacrifice was not in this case the community of citizens but private individuals. This is a private initiative insofar as this sacrifice was not included in the fixed programme of the ritual of the civic cult of Asklepios, and implies that the priests, even if they are currently active functionaries of the sanctuary, act in this case as members of a separate group.</p> <p>The donation of six or more <i>plethra</i> of vineyards on the part of Iulia Eudia to the association apparently required her husband's consent, as it arises from ll. 6-8. Cf. Mantas 1999: 121-2.</p> <p>As sacrifices to Hygieia together with Asklepios are mentioned in the decree, it seems that there was an altar of Hygieia in the sanctuary, cf. Jost 1985: 125.</p>
ii. Poland concordance	Poland B 26
iii. Bibliography	<p>Dunand, F. (1973), <i>Le culte d'Isis dans le bassin oriental de la Méditerranée, vol. II. Le culte d'Isis en Grèce</i>. Leiden.</p> <p>Gardner, P. and Poole, R.S. (1887), <i>Catalogue of Greek coins. Peloponnesus (excluding Corinth)</i>. London.</p> <p>Jost, M. (1985), <i>Sanctuaires et cultes d'Arcadie</i>. Paris.</p> <p>Harter-Uibopuu, K. (2013), 'Auf dass Ehren ewig währen – Epigraphische Zeugnisse zum Schutz von Auszeichnungen', in: R. Breitwieser, M. Frass, and G. Nightingale (eds.) <i>Calamus. Festschrift für Herbert Graßl zum 65. Geburtstag</i>. Wiesbaden: 245-61.</p> <p>Mantas, K. (1999), 'Marriage in the Roman Imperial period', <i>Polis</i> 11: 111-34.</p>

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The fact that the group defines itself as <i>synodos</i> , issues decrees and displays an internal organization, shows that it was a private association.