

CAPInv. 554: **synmystai Abarsakenoi**

## I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Bithynia
iii. Site	Pylai

## II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	συνμύσται Ἀβάρσακηνοί (I.Apameia und Pylai 103, ll. 4-5)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>synmystai Abarsakenoi</i>

## III. DATE

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

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>synmystai</i>
	Ethnic:	<i>abarsakenoi</i> refers to inhabitants of Abarsakos, apparently a settlement in the region of Pylai (see Şahin and Sayar 1982: 49; <i>BE</i> 1983: no. 424; Corsten in I.Apameia und Pylai 103, p. 110).

## V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	I.Apameia und Pylai 103 (iii AD)
Note	See also: Şahin and Sayar 1982: 49-50 no. 5 SEG 32: 1259 GRA II 100 AGRW 96

<b>Online Resources</b>		<a href="#">I.Apameia und Pylai 103</a> <a href="#">AGRW ID# 56</a>
<b>i.a. Source type(s)</b>	Epigraphic source(s)	
<b>i.b. Document(s) typology &amp; language/script</b>	Funerary inscription in Greek for Dion and his homonymous father	
<b>i.c. Physical format(s)</b>	Pedimental stele with relief depicting a funerary banquet in which participated a seated women and two men lying on a couch (one of them holding a wreath).	
<b>ii. Source(s) provenance</b>	The inscription was found at Yalova (Pylai).	

## IX. MEMBERSHIP

<b>ii. Gender</b>	Men	
<b>Note</b>	Dion and perhaps his homonymous son are the only known members of the group.	
<b>iii. Age</b>	Children Adults	
<b>Note</b>	The word παῖς, <i>pais</i> (l. 1), used to define the younger Dion who died at the age of 15, has been considered as an indication of the participation of children to the <i>symmystai Abarsakenoi</i> (see Şahin and Sayar 1982: 49; Corsten in I.Apameia und Pylai 103, p. 110). This is highly probable but caution is needed: In fact there is no absolutely clear proof that the younger Dion was an actual member (or even a candidate for full-membership after the completion of his <i>ephebeia</i> , as Corsten suggested).	

## X. ACTIVITIES

<b>iv. Honours/Other activities</b>	The group of <i>symmystai Abarsakenoi</i> erected a funerary inscription for Dion and his homonymous son, styled as παῖς, <i>pais</i> (l. 1) and φιλαβάρσακος, <i>philabarsakos</i> (ll. 1-2). The latter term suggests services and benefactions rendered by the younger Dion (probably via his father) to the community of Abarsakos, to which the honouring <i>symmystai</i> belonged.	
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## XII. NOTES

<b>i. Comments</b>	The name of the group suggests the performance of Mysteries.	
<b>iii. Bibliography</b>	Ascough, R.S., Harland, P.A., and Kloppenborg, J.S. (2012), <i>Associations in the Greco-Roman World: A Sourcebook</i> . Berlin. Şahin, S. and Sayar, M.H. (1982), 'Fünf Inschriften aus dem Gebiet des Golfes von Nikomedeia', <i>ZPE</i> 47: 43-50.	

## XIII. EVALUATION

<b>i. Private association</b>	Probable	
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#### Note

Şahin and Sayar 1982: 49-50 suggested that the term *synmystai Abarsakenoi* corresponded not to a single association but to a group of members of various cult association which performed mysteries in Abarsakos and decided to honour their sponsor(s) (cf. SEG 32: 1259). However, both Corsten (in I.Apameia und Pylai 103, p. 110) and Ascough, Harland and Kloppenborg (2012: no. 96) considered *synmystai Abarsakenoi* to be a single cult association. Although the terminology used does indicate that we have here a single group of fellow-initiates, whether this was an association organised in a permanent and durable way or simply a group of initiates taking an *ad hoc* decision to honour Dion father and son cannot be demonstrated with absolute certainty.