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CAPInv. 785: synetheia he epi tou Poseidonos

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Macedonia
ii. Region	Mygdonia
iii. Site	Thessalonike

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	συνήθεια ἡ ἐπὶ τοῦ Ποσειδῶνος (IG X.2.1 Suppl. 1372, ll. 1-3)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>synetheia he epi tou Poseidonos</i>

III. DATE

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

ii. Name elements	Topographical:	<i>epi tou Poseidonos</i> : According to one of the interpretations of the phrase <i>he epi tou Poseidonos</i> , the association was named after a neighbourhood of Thessalonike; see XII.i: Comments, below.
iii. Descriptive terms	συνήθεια, <i>synetheia</i>	
Note	<i>synetheia</i> : IG X.2.1 Suppl. 1372, l. 1	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG X.2.1 Suppl. 1372 (s. ii AD)
Note	Other editions: SEG 56: 767
Online Resources	IG X.2.1 Suppl. 1372

i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek funerary inscription
i.c. Physical format(s)	Crowned stele with inscription in a moulded panel.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Found reused in a pavement near the western cemetery of Thessalonike.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	If the appellation ἡ ἐπὶ τοῦ Ποσειδῶνος, <i>he epi tou Poseidonos</i> , is understood as a cultic reference (see XII.i: Comments, below), the name of the association may refer to a sanctuary of Poseidon.
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VII. ORGANIZATION

ix. Privileges	As is the case in the overwhelming majority of our evidence, the only thing we know for this association is that it paid for the funerary monuments of one of its members.
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IX. MEMBERSHIP

iv. Status	The only member of the association that we know of is a perfume-seller (μυροπώλης, <i>myropoles</i>), most probably a liberated slave who belonged to a Macedoniarch and then to an Italian family of <i>negotiatores</i> (see Nigdelis 2006: 165-7). It should also be noted that a second μυροπώλης, <i>myropoles</i> , of Thessalonike attested in the same period (IG X.2.1 Suppl. 1440) is also a slave.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	Nigdelis 2006: 163-4 hesitantly interprets the awkward name of the association (ἡ ἐπὶ τοῦ Ποσειδῶνος, <i>he epi tou Poseidonos</i>) as a reference to a sanctuary or to the meeting place of the association; either way, he considers the cultic nature of the association's name and function certain. Nevertheless, the presence of the definitive article, absent from the parallel from Pydna he adduces (SEG 45: 746, θρησκευταὶ οἱ συνελθόντες ἐπὶ θεοῦ Διὸς Ὑψίστου, <i>threskeutai hoi synelthontes epi theou Dios Hypsistou</i> , CAPInv. 41), suggests that ἐπὶ τοῦ, <i>epi tou</i> , is a geographic designation. In other words, the association's name may point to a location; this location may indeed be a sanctuary of Poseidon but it may well be a neighbourhood of Thessalonike, presumably near the harbour, where both Poseidon as a place-name and the activities of a perfume-seller such as the deceased of this epitaph would be pertinent. If this interpretation is correct, the association's name should not necessarily be linked to a cult of Poseidon (for this interpretation see Paschidis, forthcoming).
iii. Bibliography	Nigdelis, P.M. (2006), <i>Επιγραφικά Θεσσαλονίκεια. Συμβολή στην πολιτική και κοινωνική ιστορία της αρχαίας Θεσσαλονίκης</i> , Thessaloniki: 163-7 no. 7. Paschidis, P. (forthcoming), 'Civic cults and (other) religious associations: in search of collective identities in Roman Macedonia' in A. Cazemier and S. Skaltsa (eds.), <i>Associations in Context: rethinking associations and religion in the post-classical polis</i> . Copenhagen.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

Despite the uncertainty over the exact nature of the association, its private character should be considered as certain.