Author: SOPHIA ZOUMBAKI

CAPInv. 1477: [hoi apo te]s oikoumenes athle[tai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Peloponnese with Adjacent Islands
ii. Region	Eleia
iii. Site	Olympia

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	[οἱ ἀπὸ τῆ]ς οἰκουμένης ἀθλη[ταί (IvO 436 ll. 1-2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	*[hoi apo te]s oikoumenes athle[tai*

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	85 AD

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Geographical:	*hoi apo tes oikoumenes* (from all over the world)
	Professional:	Athletes

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IvO 436 (AD 85)
Online Resources	IvO 436
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Inscription in Greek on an honorific monument erected by *hoi apo tes oikoumenes athletai*, the *sympas xystos*, the *hiera xystike synodos* (ll. 1-5) for the Elean *agoranomos* and *archiereus* (ll. 8-9) L. Vettulenus Laetus.

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i.c. Physical format(s)	A statue base of gray marble, whose left part is missing.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Olympia, in front of the eastern side of the temple of Zeus.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	Athletes

X. ACTIVITIES

iv. Honours/Other activities	*Hoi apo tes oikoumenes athletai* together with the *sympas xystos* (CAPInv. 1485), the *hiera xystike synodos* (CAPInv. 1486) honour the Elean *agoranomos* and *archiereus* L. Vettulenus Laetus.

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	The fact that the body honours an Elean of outstanding rank as its benefactor shows its impact on an Elean level.
ii. Interaction abroad	The fact that the title of the body includes the phrase *hoi apo tes oikoumenes* as well as the joint action with other bodies, also of an international scope, show the group's international impact.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The first two lines of the inscription are perhaps to be restored not as [τῶν ἀπὸ τῆ]ς οἰκουμένης ἀθλη[τῶν, *[ton apo te]s oikoumenes athle[ton*, (Dittenberger), as it is too long to fit into the available space and it seems syntactically problematic, but as [οἱ ἀπὸ τῆ]ς οἰκουμένης ἀθλη[ταὶ, *[hoi apo te]s oikoumenes athle[tai*, on the basis of the text of IvO 469. However, Dittenberger's restoration perhaps indicates that Vettulenus Laetus is not honoured by the international union of athletes itself, but only by its members who took part in the Olympic games of the 216th Olympiad. It is not certain, whether *hoi apo tes oikoumenes athletai* are to be identified with *hoi apo tes oikoumenes hieronikai kai athletai* of the inscriptions IvO 436 and 469 from Olympia (CAP Inv. 1478). Pleket 1973: 201-10 believes that in the second half of the 1st c. BC there were two separate guilds of athletes and sacred victors, but later there was one and only organization of athletes and victors, but in several inscriptions we encounter certain short-hands of the complete title of the association. The designation *hoi apo tes oikoumenes* indicates international union(s). Dittenberger's restoration of the text of IvO 436 as [τῶν ἀπὸ τῆ]ς οἰκουμένης ἀθλη[τῶν ὅ τε] σύμπας ξυστός, [οἱ παραγ]ενόμενοι ἐπὶ τὸν [ἀγῶνα] τῶν Ὀλυμπίων, *[ton apo te]s oikoumenes athle[ton ho te] sympas xystos, [hoi parag]enomenoi epi ton [agona] ton Olympion*, (provided that it is correct) indicates that Vettulenus Laetus is not honoured by the international union of athletes itself, but by its members who took part in the Olympic games of the 216th Olympiad. Pellet 1973: 207-208 further suggests that *hoi apo tes oikoumenes athletai* of IvO 436 "are subsequently divided into two categories", i.e, [ὅ τε] σύμπας ξυστός, [οἱ παραγ]ενόμενοι ἐπὶ τὸν [ἀγῶνα] τῶν Ὀλυμπίων, *[ho te] sympas xystos, [hoi parag]enomenoi epi ton [agona] ton Olympion* and the ἱερὰ ξυστικῆ σύνοδος *hiera xystike synodos*. The categories are: (a) the entire *xystos*, h.e. the ad hoc groups of athletes who from all over the world came together for the celebration of the 216th Olympic games (AD 85) and (b) the permanent ecumenical guild of athletes. The full title of the latter is given in three imperial letters from the 1st century AD, written by Claudius and Vespasian and preserved on a papyrus: ἡ ἱερὰ ξυστικὴ περιπολιστικὴ σύνοδος τῶν περὶ τὸν Ἡρακλέα, *he hiera xystike peripolistike synodos ton peri ton Heraklea*. In the course of time further imperial epithets... and patrons... are added to the guild's name. It is hard to tell whether the two ecumenical guilds of the athletes and guilds have continued to exist separately until the end of ancient athletics or have possibly achieved a merger. It cannot be argued on the basis of this inscription that there was a local Olympic branch of the international guild (cf. Pleket 1973: 205). An oecumenical corporation of *hieronikai* and *stephanitai* is for the first time attested in a document preserved on the rear side of a medical papyrus. It is a prescript of Mark Antony who grants them several privileges (Brandis, 1897: 509-522). This text implies that the corporation already existed, as the confirmation of previously received privileges indicates, but it is unknown since when. It is further unclear, how it was organized, where it was based, whether it had one and only headquarters, whether it had local branches, whether it included both athletic and thymelic victors (since both could be *hieronikai*) or merely athletes. Brandis and other scholars, such as Forbes 1897: 240, are inclined towards the former view, whilst others, such as Pleket 1973: 200, to the latter.
ii. Poland concordance	Poland H 12
iii. Bibliography	Brandis, C.G. (1897), 'Ein Schreiben des Triumvirn Marcus Antonius an den Landtag Asiens', *Hermes* 32: 509-522. Forbes, C.A. (1955), 'Ancient Athletic Guilds', *CPh* 50: 238-52 esp. 240. Pleket, H.W. (1973), 'Some aspects of the history of the ancient athletic guilds', *ZPE* 10: 197-227 esp. 201-10.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	Since the organization of the group is not known with accuracy, we cannot define it with certainty as a private association.
ii. Historical authenticity	rce.

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