

CAPInv. 222: **eranistai**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Aegean Islands
ii. Region	Delos
iii. Site	Delos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἐρανιστῶν (IG XI.4 1223, l. 2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	eranistai

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	196 BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Other:	<i>eranistai</i> : the term derives from <i>eranos</i> denoting (1) a loan, (2) communal meal to which each contributed his share, (3) an association.
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG XI.4 1223 (196 BC)
Note	The dedication was made in the month of Lenaios in the archonship of Diogenes (IG XI.4 1223, ll. 1-2) (See also 'Comments'). See also: CE no. 20 RICIS 202/0134 Bricault 2013: no. 91
Online Resources	IG XI.4 1223 AGRW ID 7444

i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Dedicatory inscription. The <i>eranistai</i> dedicated couches (<i>klinai</i>) to Sarapis, Isis and Anubis.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Marble slab. H. 20 x W. 27 x. Th. 7 cm.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Found not far away from Sarapieion B, in one of the workshops, east of the Inopos reservoir. Now in the Museum on Delos.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains	Sarapieion B (GD 96) lies in the Inopos river valley, on a terrace west of the Sanctuary of the Oriental Gods. It was probably constructed at the end of the 3rd or the beginning of the 2nd c. BC, as suggested by a dedication that dates to 196 BC (CAP Inv. 222). It seems to have fallen out of use sometime in the period of the Second Athenian Occupation. Sarapieion B may not have operated as a sanctuary of Sarapis but rather as a meeting place of associations centered around the cult of the Egyptian gods, appropriately equipped with dining facilities for banquets.
ii. References to buildings/objects	κλίνας, <i>klinai</i> (IG XI.4 1223, l. 10)

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	ἐραναρχοῦντος, <i>eranarchountos</i> (IG XI.4 1223, ll. 2-3)
iii. Members	ἐρανισταὶ, <i>eranistai</i> (IG XI.4 1223, l. 2)
iv. Officials	ἱερεὺς <i>hiereus</i> ? (IG XI.4 1223, l. 3) The <i>hiereus</i> was presiding the <i>eranos</i> (<i>eranarchountos</i> (IG XI.4 1223, ll. 2-3). According to Bricault (RICIS no. 202/0134) Lampron must have been an official in Sarapieion C, who presided over reunions held in Sarapieion B.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	Fifteen individuals, called <i>eranistai</i> , dedicated an unspecified number of couches.
ii. Gender	Men
Note	All names inscribed on the stone are male.
iv. Status	All names are of Greek origin. The lack of patronymics should not be considered conclusive as to the status of the <i>eranistai</i> . However, Bricault (2013: 289) suggests that the absence of patronymics and demotics may point toward metics rather than citizens.

v. Relations

Two of the *eranistai* bear the name Apollonios. In the *koinon ton enatiston* (IG XI.4 1228, 1229) three individuals bear the same name. One of these Apollonioi is the *grammateus* of the association, also bearing the title *melanephoros* (IG XI.4 1228 ll. 3-4, 24-7, 1229 ll. 3-4, 24-7). The name Aischrion is also attested in IG XI.4 1228, 1229. There might be homonyms. However, we should not exclude the possibility that we are dealing with the same individuals, members in more than one association centered around Sarapieion B (all these inscriptions were found in or have been attributed to Sarapieion B). Bricault (RICIS nos. 202/134, 202/191) tentatively suggested to identify Nikis (l. 7) with Nikis, who made a dedication along with Kleiso in Sarapieion C ([IG XI 4, 1307 l. 9](#) ; the object donated is unknown but it weighted 73 dr 2 ob). Apollodoros (l. 8) may be identified with Apollodoros, member of the *koinon ton dekadiston kai dekadistrion* (IG XI.4 1227 l. 5).

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship

The dedication is addressed to Sarapis, Isis, Anubis, who are called *theoi synnaoi kai symbomoi* (IG XI.4 1223, ll. 11-12).

Deities worshipped

Sarapis
Isis
Anubis

iv. Honours/Other activities

The eranistai dedicated couches (*klinas*) to Sarapis, Isis and Anubis.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments

The inscription dates in the archonship of Diogenes. Diogenes was archon in 196 BC (Vial 1984: 302)

Sarapieion B has yielded a number of inscriptions attesting to six associations, active within its premises ([CAP Inv. 215](#); [CAP Inv. 216](#); [CAP Inv. 217](#); [CAP Inv. 218](#); [CAP Inv. 219](#); [CAP Inv. 222](#)). All inscriptions date to the first half of the 2nd c. BC. A certain degree of connectivity is to be noted among the various associations on the basis of individuals who were members of more than one association (see esp. CAP Inv. 218).

iii. Bibliography

Bricault, L., (2013), *Les cultes isiaques dans le monde gréco-romain*. Paris: 288 no. 91.
Dunand, F. (1973), *Culte d'Isis*. Leiden: vol. II: 101 n. 4, vol. III, 292
Vial, C. (1984), *Délos indépendante (314-167 avant J.-C.): Etude d'une communauté civique et ses institutions*. (BCH Suppl. 10). Paris.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Probable

Note

The activity of the association suggests a permanent organisation. The private nature of the association seems likely, but remains uncertain.