

CAPInv. 838: **toi Bakchoi**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Caria
iii. Site	Knidos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	τὸι Βάκ[χοι] (<i>I. Knidos</i> 160, line 3)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>toi Bakchoi</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	350 (?) - 300 (?) BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	Βάκ[χοι], <i>Bakchoi</i> The name refers to worshippers or celebrants in the cult of Dionysos Bacchos, see X.iii below.
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	<i>I. Knidos</i> 160 (ca. 350-300 BC?), with further bibliography.
Note	Cf. also <i>SEG</i> 17, 494; Jaccottet 2003: 257-8, no. 154 (with further refs.).
Online Resources	PHI: I. Knidos I 160 (the same text can also be found in PHI: Knidos 17) Harland, AGRW no. 9731
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Decree of the city of Knidos in Greek, referring to a petition by the <i>Bakchoi</i> concerning the purity (ῥύπανσις) ἀγνεύεται, lines 4-5) of the sanctuary of Dionysos Bakchos, and specifically concerning restricting camping in the sanctuary.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Fragmentary stele.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Okçular.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	τὸ [ἱερὸν] τοῦ Διονύσου τοῦ Βάκχου, <i>to [hiaro]n tou Dionys[ou]u Bakchou</i> (lines 5-7) [τῶν] ἱερῶν τῶν [Βάκχων], <i>[to]i hiaroi ton [Bacchon]</i> (lines 9-10) The <i>Bakchoi</i> appear to be concerned with the sanctuary of Dionysos Bakchos, but it is unclear what sort of claim or authority they had over this structure (see also below XIII.i). The first phrasing seems to be generic, while the second, if correctly restored, might imply that the Bacchoi did have possession of the sanctuary in question. Alternatively, it could refer to the Bacchoi as worshippers (see below).
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X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The group appears to be primarily concerned with cult and worship, and is possibly to some degree in control of the sanctuary.
Deities worshipped	Dionysos Bakchos.

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	The <i>Bakchoi</i> made a request to the city of Knidos in relation to their concerns.
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XII. NOTES

ii. Poland concordance	B307
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XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible
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Note

Little can be said with any assurance on the basis of this short and laconic text. Jaccottet raises again the question of whether we have here a private group controlling a sanctuary or a board of officials such as a "college of priests". She finds the arguments for both sides of the question relatively equivalent (cf. her summary of the discussion on this text). An institutional group of officials, a hypothesis somewhat favoured by Jaccottet, is perhaps a valid possibility in fourth-century BC Knidos, though it remains conjectural.

Though the *Bakchoi* are to some degree organised and consult the city of Knidos on the matter of the proper use of the sanctuary of Dionysos, this also shows that the sanctuary in question was not strictly 'private' and that the *Bakchoi* did not have complete authority over it. While conceivably a private association or even a board of officials, it is thus also possible that the term *Bakchoi* merely reflects a group of anxious worshippers of Dionysos, formed *ad hoc* in this instance.