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CAPInv. 1087: Chersikratidai patroistai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Greece with the Ionian Islands
ii. Region	Corcyra
iii. Site	Paleopolis (Corcyra)

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Χερσικρατίδαι πατροῖσταί (IG IX.1 ² .4 1140, ll. 1-2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Chersikratidai patroistai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	e. ii BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>patroistai</i> . According to Hallof (ad IG IX.1 ² .4 1140), it is a hapax derived from the verb πατρώζω (<i>patroizo</i>) with the meaning <i>patrum moribus oboedire</i> .
	Heroic:	<i>Chersikrates</i> . This name is attested by Timaeus, FGrHist 566 F 80 (who refers to him as a <i>Bakchiades</i>) and Strabo 6.2.4 (who refers to him as a <i>Herakleides</i>).

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG IX.1 ² .4 1140 (e. ii BC)
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek dedication or boundary stone, classified after <i>Varia</i> in IG IX.1 ² .4 1140.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Limestone stele with pediment, missing at the bottom. Inscription of 2 lines in pediment (with the name of the association in genitive only).
ii. Source(s) provenance	Found by W. Doerpfeld in 1914 at Paleopolis (Corcyra) to the north of the foundations of the Artemis temple, perhaps the politically most important for the city, cf. Antonetti 2001. In the <i>temenos</i> there was also found a dedication of the <i>prytaneis</i> , the chief officials of Corcyra: IG IX.1 ² .4 837.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	It is very likely that the members were male, given the remarkable link with the founder of the colony advertised in the group's name.

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	Given the place of display of the inscription, a cult of Artemis in the association is very likely.
Deities worshipped	Artemis (?)

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The nature of the inscription mentioning the association is unclear. SEG 51: 665 no. 2 suggests a boundary stone of the <i>patroistai</i> estate. Given the place of display of the stele, the temple of Artemis, I prefer to think of it as a dedication. The genitive of possession of the name should then be understood in connection with other – now lost – archaeological and epigraphical elements. The place of discovery of the inscription, the precinct of Artemis, strongly supports a religious function of the association. The name of the association is derived from that of the founder (<i>oikistes</i>) of the polis. No cult of <i>Chersikrates</i> , however, is attested otherwise.
iii. Bibliography	Antonetti, C. (2001), 'Corcira e l'area ionica in epoca arcaica: l'autorappresentazione in chiave mitologica', in A. Barzanò et al. (eds.), <i>Identità e valori. Fattori di aggregazione e fattori di crisi nell'esperienza politica antica</i> , Roma: 11-21. Antonetti, C. (2006), 'Die Rolle des Artemisions von Korkyra in archaischer Zeit: Lokale und überregionale Perspektiven' in K. Freitag, P. Funke, and M. Haake (eds.), <i>Kult, Politik, Ethnos, Überregionale Heiligtümer im Spannungsfeld von Kult und Politik</i> (Historia-Einzelschriften 189), Stuttgart: 54-72. Antonetti, C. (2010), 'I diversi aspetti di una koine socio-culturale nella Grecia nord-occidentale di epoca ellenistica', in C. Antonetti (ed.), <i>Lo spazio ionico e le comunità della Grecia nord-occidentale. Territorio, società, istituzioni</i> . Pisa: 301-326.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	The association should have an elite character, being tied to the historical founder (did he become a hero?), so it is more likely to be private rather than public. The existence of devotees to the memory of the settler is of the greatest interest for the history of the Hellenistic city identity, see Antonetti 2006 and 2010: 314.

ii. Historical authenticity

Both the relevant inscription and the literary sources about Corcyra render the historical authenticity of this association indisputable.