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CAPInv. 1315: hoi linourgoi

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Eastern Asia Minor
ii. Region	Cilicia
iii. Site	Tarsos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	οἱ λινουργοί (Dio Chrys. 34.21-23)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hoi linourgoi</i>

III. DATE

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

ii. Name elements	Professional:	<i>linourgoi</i> , linen-workers
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Dio Chrys. 34.21-23
Online Resources	Dio Chrys. 34.21 at Perseus Digital Library
i.a. Source type(s)	Literary source(s)

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	In his second Tarsian speech Dio addresses the assembly of the Cilician polis and points out some problems in the city, such as divisions among its own classes. In addition to the discord of the council and the assembly, of the Youth and the Elders there was further unrest caused by a group of no small size, called the “linen-workers”. Most of them had been born in Tarsos. Although they did not have the citizenship they were sometimes allowed to attend the assembly, but without a voice. Since the full citizenship was restricted to those who were able to pay 500 drachmae, it was all but impossible for the poor linen-workers to be enrolled as citizens. This disenfranchisement had caused disturbances. Dio suggests therefore to enroll the linen-workers immediately and free of charge. Jones 1978: 81 convincingly argues that the linen-workers were organized as a professional association, although Dio does not mention it. Broughton 1975: 844 uses a similar line of argumentation: “Linen workers was a generic name for the lower classes at Tarsos. The relevant passage of Dio Chrysostom (34.21-3) does not imply that they were organized into associations; neither does he imply it for dyers, shoemakers, or carpenters, but the unrest they were causing makes it easy to assume.”
iii. Bibliography	Broughton, T.R.S. (1975), ‘Roman Asia Minor’, in Frank, T. (ed.), <i>An Economic Survey of Ancient Rome</i>. New York: 499-916. Buraselis, K. (1995), ‘Zu Caracallas Strafmassnahmen in Alexandrien (215/6). Die Frage der Leinenweber in P. Giss. 40 II und der <i>syssitia</i> in Cass. Dio 77(78).23.3’, <i>ZPE</i> 108: 166-88, esp. 183-4. Jones, C.P. (1978), <i>The Roman World of Dio Chrysostom</i>, Cambridge: 71-82.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	The name and the documented activity suggest that the linen-workers were organized as an professional association.
ii. Historical authenticity	Certain