

CAPInv. 1589: [hoi] epi tou limenos erg[astai]

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Aegean Islands
ii. Region	Chios
iii. Site	Chios town

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	[οἱ] ἐπὶ τοῦ λιμένος ἐργ[ασταί] (SEG XVII 382 A ll. 3-4)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	[hoi] epi tou limenos erg[astai]

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	i BC - i AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Professional:	[hoi] epi tou limenos erg[astai]
	Topographical:	epi tou limenos

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	SEG XVII 382 A (i BC).
Online Resources	Chios 173
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Three honorary inscriptions for <i>xenophylakes</i> by (A) the <i>naukleroi</i> and the <i>epi tou limenos erg[astai]</i> , (B) the <i>porthmeis</i> and, (C) the <i>porthmeuontes eis Erythras</i> All in Greek.

i.c. Physical format(s)	Two joining fragments of a base of local grey limestone. Fragment <i>a</i> preserves the original top and left sides, fragment <i>b</i> the original left side. Above the inscription a crown in relief. There are two other honorary inscriptions for <i>xenophylakes</i> (B, C) written on the left side of the base.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Found in Chios town by the port (Paspates 1888: 415). Now in the Archaeological Museum of Chios.

X. ACTIVITIES

iv. Honours/Other activities	The <i>naukleroi</i> and the <i>epi tou limenos erg[astai]</i> jointly offer a golden crown to the <i>xenophylakes</i> of the year of the eponymous <i>prytanis Demochares</i> (?).
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	<p>The exact occupation of the <i>ergastai</i> is not known (cf. Poland 1909: 108-9; Robert 1929: 33-4); they were probably traders. The here attested <i>erg[astai]</i> were designated as <i>hoi epi tou limenos</i> because of the place of their activity, i.e. the port (cf. Robert 1929: 33-4).</p> <p>The restoration of the name of the group (ἐργ[ασταί]) was suggested by Robert on the basis of a similar inscription of about the same date, IG XII.8 16 (Robert 1929: 37. CAP Inv. 1590). Robert further argued that both groups, namely the <i>naukleroi</i> and the <i>epi tou limenos ergastai</i> appear also in IG XII.8 16.</p> <p>The office of the <i>xenophylakes</i> is otherwise unattested. The name of the office indicates that their function was to watch and protect the <i>xenoi</i> (see LSJ 9, s.v.), i.e. the foreigners who visited Chios. That is why the <i>xenophylakes</i> are honored by professional groups, such as the ferrymen, the shipowners and the <i>ergastai</i> in the harbor (cf. Robert 1929: 38, and Reger 2003: 191). Engelmann and Merkelbach take the word <i>xenophylakes</i> to be 'Zollbehörde'.</p> <p>Concerning the date of the inscription. It can be dated by letter forms to the i BC or i AD (i BC, Forrest, SEG XVII 382 A), since we do not know when <i>Demochares</i> (?) was in office. Compared to the inscriptions B and C written on the same stone it is of a later date.</p>
ii. Poland concordance	Poland E 32
iii. Bibliography	<p>Paspates, A. G. (1888), <i>Tò Χιακὸν Γλωσσάριον</i>, Athens: 415 no. 35.</p> <p>Studniczka, Fr. (1888), 'Aus Chios', <i>MDAI(A)</i> 13: 169-70 no. 10 (a).</p> <p>Ziebarth, E. (1896), <i>Das griechische Vereinswesen</i>, Leipzig: 31.</p> <p>Robert, L. (1929), 'Trois inscriptions de l'Archipel', <i>REG</i> 42: 36-7 (D).</p> <p>SEG XVII 382 A.</p> <p>McCabe, D. and Brownson, J. (1986), <i>Chios Inscriptions. Texts and List</i>. The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton: no. 173.</p> <p>Reger, G. (2003), Aspects of the Role of Merchants in the Political Life of the Hellenistic World, in: Zaccagnini, C. (Ed.), <i>Mercanti e Politica nel Mondo Antico</i>, Roma: 165-197.</p> <p>Ψφ. Engelmann, H., Merkelbach, R. (1972), <i>Die Inschriften von Erythrai und Klazomenai</i>. Bonn: no. 74 [only C].</p>

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The professional terminology of the association and their activity towards the <i>xenophylakes</i> ensures the private character of the association.