

CAPInv. 1884: **xystos**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Eastern Asia Minor
ii. Region	Paphlagonia
iii. Site	Pompeiopolis

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ξυστός (Marek 1993: 147, no. 37, l. 8)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>xystos</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	Imp.
------------	------

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Professional:	The term <i>xystos</i> denotes a group of athletes (see below XII.i).
-------------------	---------------	---

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Marek 1993: 147, no. 37 (Imp.)
Note	See also: CIG III 4155 Doublet 1889: 307-8, no. 15
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Funerary inscription in Greek for Agatheinos son of Athenaios, secretary of the <i>xystos</i> .
ii. Source(s) provenance	The inscription was found at Taşköprü (Pompeiopolis).

VII. ORGANIZATION

iv. Officials	The administrative apparatus of the group included the post of γραμματεὺς (<i>grammateus</i> , ll. 7-8), held by the deceased.
---------------	---

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	Since <i>xystos</i> refers to an association of athletes, membership was restricted to men.
iv. Status	The members of the <i>xystos</i> were athletes.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	It can be no doubt that the <i>xystos</i> mentioned in Agatheinos' funerary inscription refers to a private association of athletes. However, its exact nature cannot be safely determined. As a term denoting an organized body with internal administration the word <i>xystos</i> appears in inscriptions recording secretaries of this group. M. Aurelios <i>Serenos ho kai Heliodoros</i> was a <i>grammateus xystou</i> who enjoyed citizenship in Alexandria, Elis, Delphi and Sparta and was buried at Taras (SEG 34: 1022). For an <i>archigrammateus xystou</i> born in Philadelphia and buried at Rome see IGUR II 404; another <i>archigrammateus xystou</i> is attested at Erythrai (I.Erythrai 416). In these cases the <i>xystos</i> may be associated with the <i>sympas xystos</i> attested in numerous inscriptions from Rome and various cities of the Greek East. The latter term has been viewed as denoting either an <i>ad hoc</i> aggregation of participants in a specific athletic event (Forbes 1955: 243), or a body somehow connected with the "international" association of athletes, being its "active right arm" (Forbes 1955: 246-7) or an administrative board perhaps formed after the establishment of a combined association comprising both sacred victors and athletes (Pleket 1973: 216-7, n. 64; cf. Newby 2005: 35). Indeed, Forbes (1955: 249) seems to consider that it was to this <i>sympas xystos</i> that Agatheinos and the other secretaries belonged. What compounds the problem is that local <i>xystoi</i> and athletic associations seem also to have existed in the Imperial Period (Forbes 1955: 244; Harries 1964: 45; Aneziri 2012: 432, n. 49). However, the fact that Agatheinos – whose career resembles that of Serenos – was a citizen of Athens, Antiocheia on the Meander and Prusa ad Olympum (presumably a famous athlete having achieved victories in Greece, Asia and Bithynia) may be considered as adding weight to the possibility that the <i>xystos</i> in question here should be identified with the <i>sympas xystos</i> affiliated to the "international" association of athletes and not with a local group. In this respect, there is no compelling reason to think that the absence of the epithet <i>sympas</i> signified a local <i>xystos</i> and it may be additionally noted that an inscription from Rome, where the headquarters of the international athletic association were located, mention the Μεγάλη Τύχη τοῦ ξυστοῦ, <i>Megale Tyche tou xystou</i>, without the epithet <i>sympas</i> (IGUR I 247). As far as the erection of Agatheinos' funerary inscription in Pompeiopolis is concerned, this may be explained by the fact that Pompeiopolis was his city of origin, or, simply - but perhaps less likely - the place of his death. Admittedly, the arguments presented above are not entirely decisive: the possibility that Agatheinos was a widely recognized athlete who served a local <i>xystos</i> cannot be ruled out. Cf. CAPInv. 1485.
ii. Poland concordance	Poland H*39
iii. Bibliography	Aneziri, S. (2012), 'Greek Strategies of Adaptation to the Roman World: The Case of the Contests', <i>Mnemosyne</i> 67: 423-42. Doublet, G. (1883), 'Inscriptions de Paphlagonie', <i>BCH</i> 13: 293-319. Forbes, C. A. (1955), 'Ancient Athletic Guilds', <i>CPh</i> 50: 238-52. Harris, H.A. (1964), <i>Greek Athletes and Athletics</i>. London. Marek, C. (1993), <i>Stadt, Ära und Territorium in Pontus-Bithynia und Nord-Galatia</i>. Tübingen. Newby, Z. (2005), <i>Greek Athletics in the Roman World. Victory and Virtue</i>. Oxford. Pleket, H. (1973), 'Some Aspects of the History of the Athletic Guilds', <i>ZPE</i> 10: 197-227.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

The existence of a *grammateus xystou* indicates an organized and durable private association of athletes.