

CAPInv. 385: **Mystai Herakleous**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Pisidia
iii. Site	Termessos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Μύσται Ἡρακλέους (SEG 57: 1474, l. 2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Mystai Herakleous</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	212 - m. iii (?) AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	μύσται, <i>mystai</i>
	Heroic:	Ἡρακλῆς, <i>Herakles</i>

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	SEG 57: 1474 (212 - m. iii (?) AD)
Online Resources	SEG 57: 1474
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Dedication in Greek of a κυνεῖον, <i>kyneion</i> (l. <i>koineion</i>) (l. 4) to Herakles.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Large limestone base moulded above and below.

ii. Source(s) provenance	Near the stone bridge in the SW of the necropolis.
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VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	καθιέρωσαν τὸ κυνεῖον, <i>kathierosan to kyneion</i> (l. <i>kathierosan to koineion</i>) (l. 2). The original editor and SEG identify this word as a misspelling referring to the building where their meetings would have been held (κοινεῖον, <i>koineion</i>)
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VII. ORGANIZATION

iv. Officials	The officials such as <i>proboulos</i> (l. 6 <i>et passim</i>), <i>chreophylax</i> (l. 6 <i>et passim</i>) and <i>neokoros</i> (l. 6 <i>et passim</i>) attested in the inscription belong to the political structures of Termessos and not to the association.
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IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	This inscription with some lacunae records 16 members as ὑπογεγραμμένοι, <i>hypogegrammenoi</i> (l. 5).
ii. Gender	Men
iv. Status	Some of the members were officials of the highest rank of Termessos, especially the two <i>probouloi</i> .

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The dedication of the κυνεῖον, <i>kyneion</i> (l. <i>koineion</i>) mentions the association's devotion to Heracles: ἐπιφανεστάτῳ θεῷ εὐξάμ[ε]νοι, <i>epiphanestatoi theoi euxam[e]noi</i> (ll. 3-4).
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XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	Whereas the interaction of the association with the civic life of Termessos is unknown, its members were fully implicated in the political structures of the <i>polis</i> and other relevant cults such as that of Zeus <i>Solymneus</i> and Leto.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The list of <i>probouloi</i> and prosopography elaborated by Heberdey provides a likely date for this inscription around AD 230s.
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iii. Bibliography

Heberdey, R. (1929), *Termessische Studien*, Vienna.
Heberdey, R. (1934), 'Termessos', *RE*² 5.2: 732-78.
İplikçioğlu, B., Çelgin, G., and Vedat Çelgin, A. (2007), *Epigraphische Forschungen in Termessos und seinem Territorium IV*. Vienna.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Probable

Note

The absence of further evidence describing the internal functioning of the group or confirming its continuity prevents us from affirming that these *mystai* were certainly a private association. Nonetheless, the fact that they had enough resources to prepare what may have been a place of common worship denotes a higher degree of probability.