

CAPInv. 631: U-WAM-010

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Bithynia
iii. Site	Nikomedeia

II. NAME

i. Association with unknown name	U-WAM-010
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III. DATE

i. Date(s)	s. ii - iii AD
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	TAM IV.1 262 (ii-iii AD)
Note	Cf. Şahin 1974: no. 34.
Online Resources	TAM IV.1 262
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Funerary inscription in Greek set up by Aurelios Eu[- - - -] Katuleinos.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Sarcophagus
ii. Source(s) provenance	The inscription was found at Izmik (Nikomedeia)

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	A μυστηριάρχης, <i>mysteriarches</i> (l. 3) was at the head of a group of initiates.
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X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The initiates headed by the <i>mysteriarches</i> performed mysteries. L. Robert (<i>BE</i> 1974: no. 573) associates these mysteries with the cult of Demeter in Nikomedeia.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The owner of the sarcophagus was βουλευτής, μυστηριάρχης, σειτόνης and ἀργυροταμίας (<i>bouleutes, mysteriarches, seitones, argyrotamias</i>) of the council. He had also assumed several times the task of <i>parapompe</i> , contributing to the reception and the sustaining of the emperor and his army (cf. Fernoux 2004: 409-414; Bekker-Nielsen 2008: 75 and 101-104). Providing leadership for a group of initiates resulted from and further enhanced the social and political capital of this prominent local figure. His <i>nomen gentis</i> (Aurelios) suggests a date in the late 2nd or 3rd century AD.
iii. Bibliography	Bekker-Nielsen, T. (2008), <i>Urban Life and Local Politics in Roman Bithynia. The Small World of Dion Chrysostomos</i> . Aarhus. Fernoux, H.-L. (2004), <i>Notables et élites des cités de Bithynie aux époques hellénistique et romaine (IIIe siècle av. J.-C. – IIIe siècle ap. J.-C.). Essai d'histoire sociale</i> . Lyon. Şahin, S. (1974), <i>Neufunde von antiken Inschriften in Nikomedeia (Izmit) und in der Umgebung der Stadt</i> . Münster.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible
Note	The term <i>mysteriarches</i> suggests the existence of a hierarchical organization within a group of initiates but does not necessarily indicate a private association.